southern VOICE

Trans warrior
Author/activist **Leslie Feinberg** gives voice to 'gender queers' in latest novel-cum-manifesto.
Page 23

ALL THE NEWS FOR YOUR LIFE AND YOUR STYLE | WWW.SOVO.COM | SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Blogging while fabulous

Local gay writers take their place in cyberspace

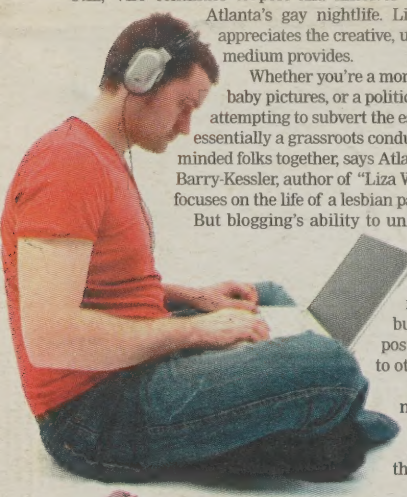
By RYAN LEE

As web logs, or blogs, continue to expand on the internet, defining what a blog actually is, or measuring its influence, becomes increasingly difficult. Gay and lesbian writers were on the forefront of developing blogs — which usually come in the form of a personal journal or news aggregation site — but even one Atlanta gay blogger who posts daily questions blogs' overall purpose and the phenomenon's lifespan.

"There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think, 'Oh, blogging is over and done with," says Chris Vise, creator of a local blog entitled "My Daily Education."

"It's sort of like 'Queer Eye' — we sort of got over it," says Vise, who speculates that it's only a matter of five years before blogs go the way of previous internet fads like Geocities websites.

Still, Vise continues to post and missives on his jaunts through Atlanta's gay nightlife. Like many bloggers, he appreciates the creative, uncensored platform the medium provides.



Whether you're a mom who wants to share baby pictures, or a political revolutionary attempting to subvert the establishment, blogs are essentially a grassroots conduit for bringing like-minded folks together, says Atlanta resident Liza Barry-Kessler, author of "Liza Was Here," a blog that focuses on the life of a lesbian parent.

But blogging's ability to unite people of a similar ilk also makes it vulnerable to creating insular communities, where the key to building readership is to post comments and links to other blogs.

"Bloggers are kind of narcissistic," says Chris Brandon, a former Atlantan and author of the increasingly popular

Please see GAY BLOGGERS on Page 31

Ashland Johnson claims she was fired from the Morehouse School of Medicine after her supervisor discovered an e-mail from her girlfriend on Johnson's computer. Her termination letter says she was dismissed for performance reasons (Photo by Bo Shell)

Morehouse School of Medicine accused of anti-gay firing

Lesbian former employee to file discrimination complaint with city

By RYAN LEE

A former employee in the registrar's office at the Morehouse School of Medicine is preparing to file a discrimination complaint with Atlanta's Human Relations Commission, claiming she was fired because she is a lesbian.

Ashland Johnson, 23, who processed student transcripts and enrollment verification at the Morehouse School of Medicine since July 2005, was fired Aug. 28. Her termination letter from the school's human resources department alleged her "failure to consistently meet the performance and attendance standards" of her job.

But Johnson said there were no complaints about the quality of her performance until she missed work due to a back injury this past July, during which Johnson's supervisor, Morehouse School of Medicine Registrar Karen A. Lewis, allegedly discovered an e-mail from Johnson's female partner on her computer.

"I came back to work and she told me she accessed my files," Johnson said of her supervisor. "I noticed a difference as soon as I came back. [Lewis] said, 'I've been on your computer, I've seen your documents, and I think you would be better-suited to work in another department.'"

Lewis declined comment on Johnson's allegations.

Following Johnson's return to work, Johnson and Lewis traded numerous e-mails and memos, with Johnson repeatedly requesting a transfer to another department and Lewis highlighting what she considered deficiencies in Johnson's work per-

Please see MOREHOUSE on Page 8

BLACK GAY PRIDE: Personal, political blend in Labor Day weekend events. **Pages 5, 7**

REMEMBERING 9/11: Gay victims' families mark fifth anniversary of attack. **Page 17**

FRESH BLOOD: New investors take reins in 30-year-old lesbian-owned bookstore. **Page 35**

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Dessert
Most Trendy
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Outdoor/Patio
Tried & True
Most Romantic

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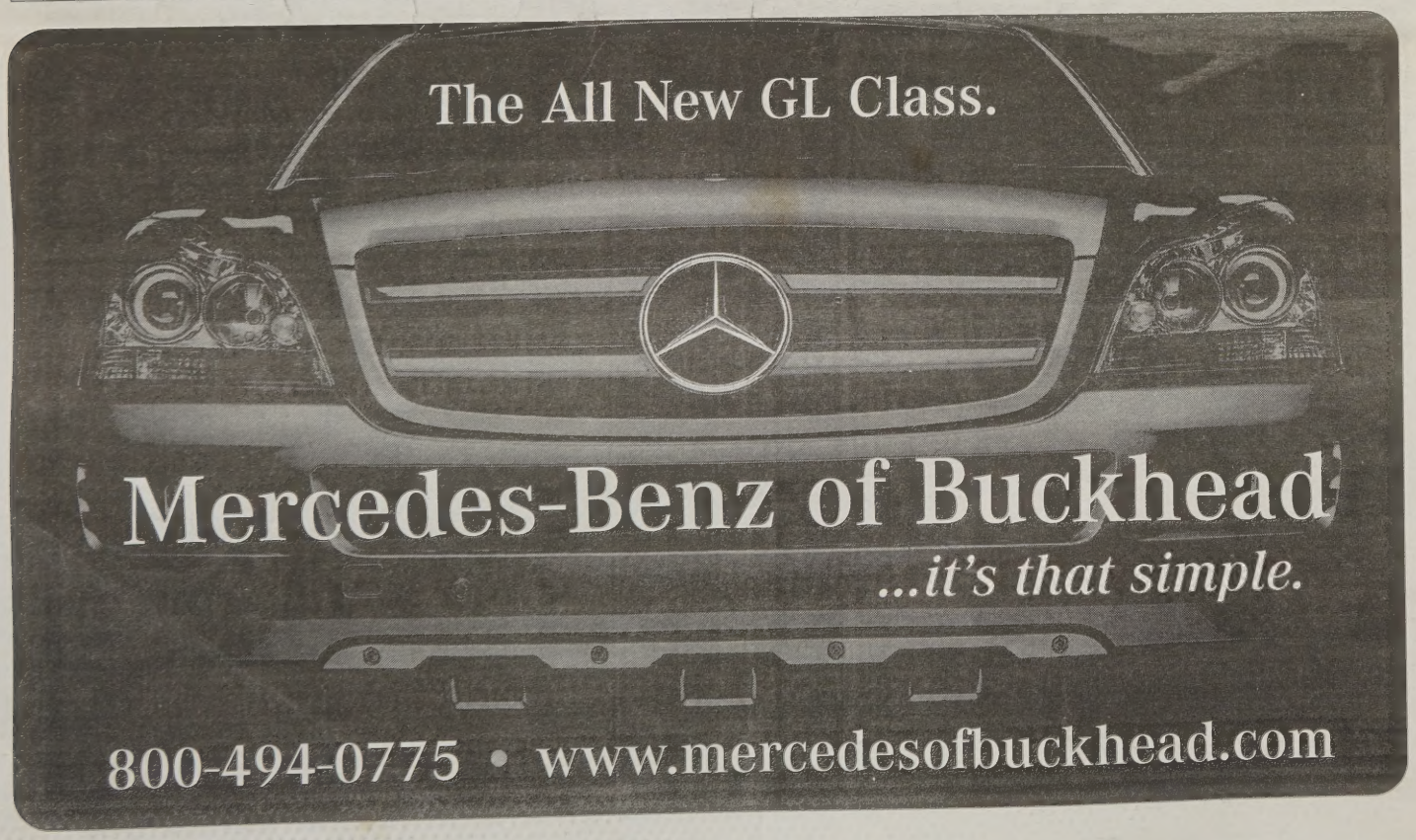

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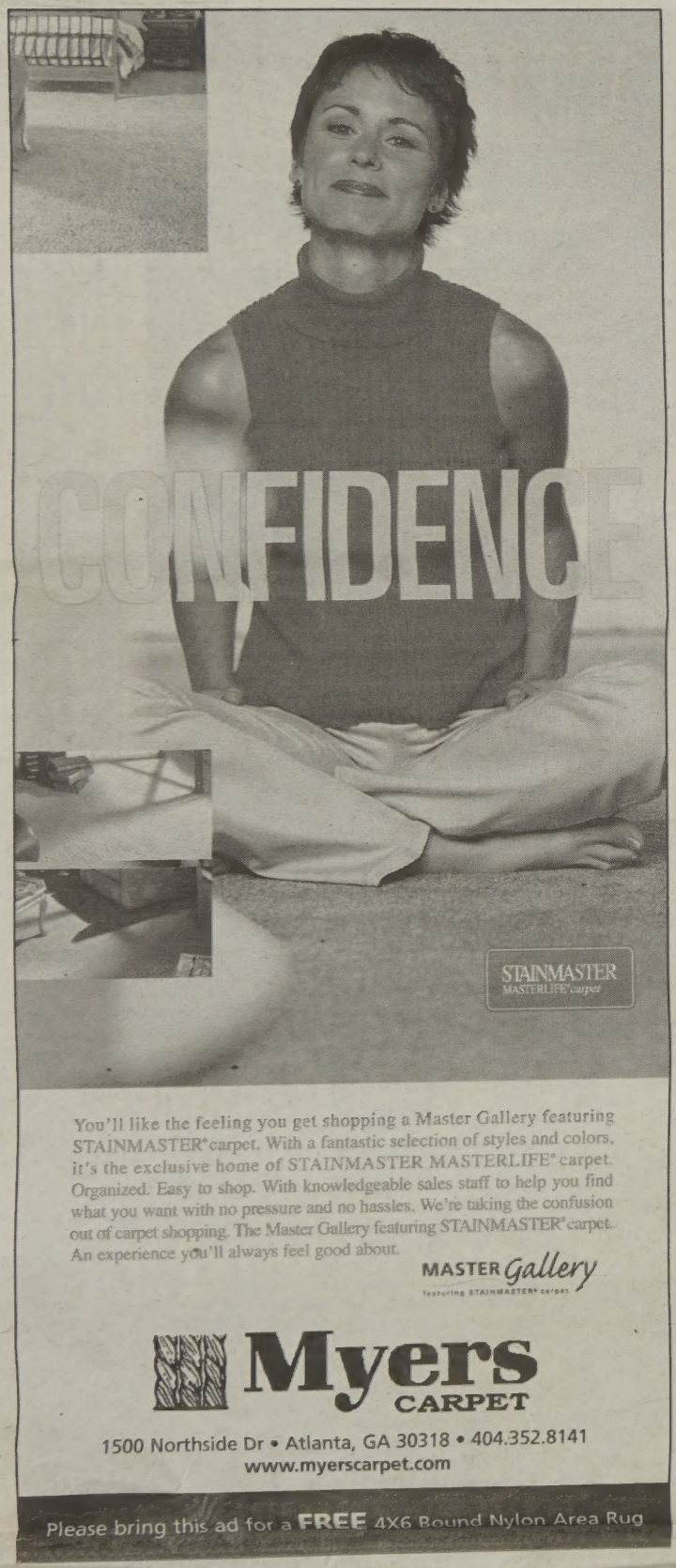
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Editors' note: The following comments about the gay issues of the day or stories published in Southern Voice were made by readers online at **www.sovo.com/soundoff** or by telephone at **1-800-485-6907**.

Disagreeing with gays isn't hating them

Re "Wishing for the lantern" (editorial by Laura Douglas Brown, Aug. 25):

I've been reading Sovo.com for about six months now. I'm trying to understand homosexuality, but what I have found so far is if you disagree with the GLBT community on political or moral grounds, you are a hate-monger. This concerns me because I still disagree and still vote that way, but I don't hate anyone. Thank you for your time. I'll still be reading.

Something wrong with lesbian soccer moms?

Re "Gay soccer mom shouldn't complain" (Sound Off, Sept. 1):

Anyone want to explain what's so bad about a kid having a soccer mom, gay or straight? Isn't that a mom who is there for the important moments in her kids' life as well as the dull, monotonous ones? Isn't that a mom who packs your lunch, and volunteers in your class, brings the orange slices and juice boxes for the team, helps you with your homework and organizes the play dates? If soccer mom means not too busy for her kids, then I wish I would have had one.

Moving past color and on toward equality

Re "The more the merrier with Pride events?" (Sound Off, Sept. 1):

In his famous "Dream" speech, Martin Luther King, Jr. wished for an America where his children would be judged not by the color of their skin, but the content of their character. So what if gays suffer a lesser economic or social loss. Ending our darkness is the same. The light of equality only comes when we too are judged on the content of our character, even when our sexual orientation is known. Why does this have to be a contest about who's got the biggest burden?

No kissing and make-up for lesbians, trans women

Re "Kiss and make up, womyn" (op-ed by Gwen Smith, Sept. 1):

Don't forget that the same lovely people who bring you the Michigan Women's Music Festival also bring you Elsie's Lesbian Connection magazine. The official policy of Elsie is it's OK if trans-women read Elsie but are not welcome to contribute. I guess a magazine article might ooze some of that poisonous testosterone from us women

wannabe's. Grow up, Lisa Vogel, and give your transphobia a rest.

I am shocked that Southern Voice would print a pro-trans opinion. The column should have read that all would be well at the Michigan Women's Music Festival if Camp Trans would disband, and men would stop trying to participate in a women's festival. The folks at Camp Trans need to disband and say to themselves, "I would make life a lot happier for the 6,000 women attending the women's festival if we would all go away. We are not women, and we are causing an annoyance for the thousands attending the festival who are." Do the right thing, trans folks, and leave the XX chromosome women alone. Let us have our women's festival and go away! Southern Voice should never publish a column like this because it endorses the transgender position on this issue, and I'm shocked that you did.

Trans men, not lesbians define what's male

Re "Much ado about pronouns" (op-ed by Jennifer Vanasco, Sept. 1):

Give me a break — self-identity and self-expression are inalienable from our beings! Anytime someone else asserts how one "should" do these things, they are wrong for doing that! They should shut up!

Excuse me? Jennifer Vanasco has no right to deny my masculinity, my manhood, while pretending to support me and my choices. I was never a woman. I was born with the wrong genitals, and that is true whether I can ever afford the surgery to have them changed to fit your narrow idea of what a man's genitals must be. I am not your sister. I am not your brother. But I am a man, and nothing you say will undermine that.

Females have privilege, too. They have the privilege of making man-hating statements and jokes and getting away with it. They have the privilege of working with children without being suspected of being abusers. They have the privilege of showing affection to their friends without being seen as "creeps." You know who doesn't have privilege? Trannies of either sort. You know what privilege we especially lack? The ability to define ourselves without having people who have not walked in our shoes try to tell us that we are deluded, that we will never really be the gender we feel that we are, that we are sisters, not brothers.

atlanta news

Black Gay Pride marks decade of growth

Attendees cite personal, political reasons for Labor Day celebration

By ERIC ERVIN and ZACK HUDSON

The loud beat of an African drum and high-energy tribal dancing helped "make way for revolution" Sept. 1 at the opening ceremony of Atlanta's annual Black Gay Pride celebration.

In the Life Atlanta, official organizer of Black Gay Pride, chose the revolutionary theme to celebrate its 10th anniversary of hosting political, educational and cultural events during the Labor Day weekend tradition, which began as a series of house parties more than two decades ago.

Nightlife festivities for this year's Black Gay Pride got underway as early as Aug. 30, but the Friday night opening ceremony at the Sheraton Midtown Colony Square, ITLA's host hotel, marked the start of official events.

"Last year we had a really good show and this year it's even better," said Derrick Baugh, an ITLA board member. "We brought back a lot of the favorite acts, and added some new ones."

The ceremony was a no-holds-barred celebration and call to action for black gay people to accept their sexual orientation and denounce those who discriminate against them.

The crowd was entertained with acts that got many on their feet. Kandi Burruss, formerly of the R&B group Xscape, treated the crowd to a free concert.

In between acts, organizers played a video chronicling Black Gay Pride's 10-year history. What begin as a string of separately organized parties over Labor Day weekend has grown into a series of events spread over four days.

"You can see how we've evolved since then," Baugh said.

Michael Slaughter, co-chair of In the Life Atlanta, said he considers reaching the 10-year mark a monumental achievement concerning how hard organizers had to work in the early years.

"You know for a Black Gay Pride to make it for 10 years, that's really something to be proud of," Slaughter said.

Maurice Cook, a former In the Life Atlanta board member, remembered those early days.

"It started just at a round table at a club where people were talking about how to do something for the many people who were coming to town," Cook said. "It was the first time brothers and sisters got together and started doing something.

Cook said he's proud of how big Atlanta Black Gay Pride has grown.

"It's been fantastic to look over the years and see what we have done," Cook said.

More than just parties

Black Gay Pride events continued throughout Labor Day weekend, from a packed schedule of special events hosted by local nightclubs and party promoters, to ITLA's roster of activities that included a candlelight vigil, health seminar, market place, brunch, poetry readings, films and plays.

Black Gay Pride photo album, Page 7

For the past three years, lesbian couple Sandra Smart and Andrea-Shari Wryte has made the long journey from London to attend Atlanta's Black Gay Pride. They love the atmosphere, which they said is more than just parties, but seminars and conferences on issues affecting black gay people.

"It's not like that in the U.K.," Wryte said during an interview at the opening ceremony. "There you just have raves."

Smart and Wryte said the organizers of Black Gay Pride have always made them feel welcome throughout the years. "It's like a family," Smart said. "We wouldn't keep coming back if we didn't like it. I just like to see our brothers and sisters coming together and being informed in a safe environment."

Atlanta resident Marco Sanders said the diverse schedule of Black Gay Pride events gave him the chance to see old friends who have outgrown the party scene and prefer more laid-back functions such as the Jazz Brunch and educational seminars.

Sanders said he's been attending Black Gay Pride "off and on" for the past 17 years.

"For me, it's a chance to see people I don't normally get to see [anymore]," he said.

Sanders, who said he's "proud everyday," said he's impressed with how much the celebration has grown throughout the years.

"It's good to see us get organized," he said.

'Stand up and represent'

Official Black Gay Pride events culminated with Labor Day's "Stand Up and Represent" march as a small but determined cadre of activists and volunteers wound its way through the muggy streets of downtown from Ebenezer Baptist Church to the steps of the state capitol.

"Each year, whether it's 10 of us or 2,000, we can shut down the streets," Anthony McWilliams, an In the Life Atlanta volunteer, told the crowd.

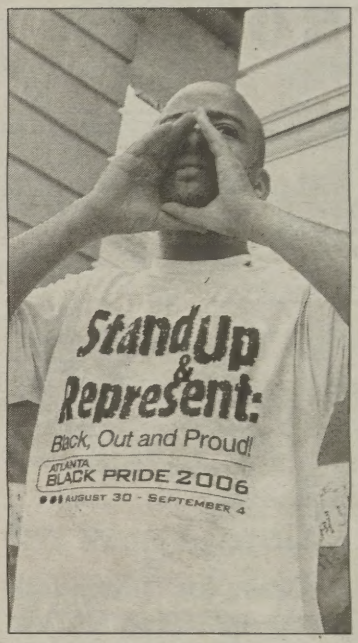
Marchers frequently compared the struggle for gay rights to the civil rights movement. The struggle then was different, and yet, the same, they said.

"Homophobia is as morally wrong as racism," one sign said, quoting the late Coretta Scott King.

"Gay is the new black," read one T-shirt.

Like their predecessors in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, marchers said that gay people also face issues internal to their communities.

"Our greatness is not determined by our waist size, or our dick size, or our breast size. We are a mighty people. Let us never forget that. That's what this weekend is all about," said Craig Washington, a parade organizer.



The Sept. 4 'Stand Up and Represent' march to the state capitol capped Black Gay Pride events over Labor Day weekend. (Photo by Bo Shell)

With little of the fanfare or onlookers of the Atlanta Pride parade in June, the Stand Up march was as much about affirming the identities of its marchers as it was about espousing their political notions.

"Like all of you, I'm tired of the status quo. I'm here today because I'm tired of seeing the same heterosexism and homophobic oppression holding us back under the guise of traditional morals and values," said march organizer Shane Johnson.

A small group of police officers, including Atlanta Police Department gay liaison Officer Darlene Harris, escorted the band of about 40 marchers down to the capitol building.

After about 10 minutes of rallying under the shade of the capitol building, marchers were informed by capitol police officers that their permits allowed them to demonstrate in front of the Gold Dome, but not in the building's entrance way. The group moved back, but some marchers made sure to assert their displeasure with the order.

"I paid taxes for them steps. And I paid for the police too. I'm talking city taxes, state and federal," one woman shouted.

For some marchers like Dionne Bates, the event allowed a rare chance to actually stand up and represent themselves.

"This is like a huge turning point in my life. It's just now time to be very visible and let others know who I am and that I'm not going to be closeted for anybody," she said.

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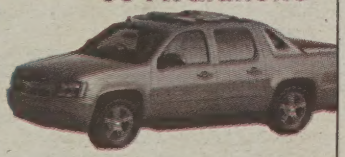

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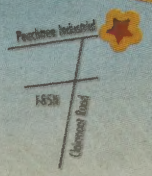

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atlanta news

Legal challenge to Atlanta City Council race continues

Gay opponent wants runoff with lesbian incumbent

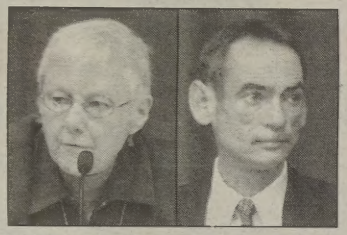
By ERIC ERVIN

A legal challenge by gay investor Steve Brodie to lesbian incumbent Atlanta City Councilmember Anne Fauver's re-election remains in limbo as both parties await a decision by the Georgia Supreme Court. Oral arguments in the case were heard May 9.

"This might come up this month, it might come up next month. I just don't know," said Richard Diguette, the court's public information officer. "Normally, after oral arguments the court will decide a case anywhere from one to four months."

The dispute stems from the exclusion of nine write-in ballots from total vote counts in the race. Brodie, Fauver's opponent in the Nov. 8 election, requested a recount shortly after the election.

The recount, which was certified by the Fulton County Board of Elections Nov.17, showed Fauver received 2,864 votes to Brodie's 2,859. On Nov. 21, Brodie filed a lawsuit asking that his loss be overturned.



While lesbian **Anne Fauver** was sworn in as the Atlanta City Council's District 6 representative on Jan. 3 after defeating gay challenger **Steve Brodie** by a razor thin margin, Brodie continues to seek to have the election overturned by the Georgia Supreme Court.

He filed an appeal Jan. 6 asking to have a Dec. 29 ruling by

Fulton Superior Court Judge Hilton Fuller ruled Dec. 29 that the results in the race for the District 6 seat were valid, leading Brodie to file an appeal Jan. 6 with the Georgia Supreme Court. Brodie also tried to halt Fauver's Jan. 3 inauguration until his legal fight is settled, but that request was rejected on Dec. 3, the same day it was filed.

According to state law, candidates must receive 50 percent plus one vote to win without a runoff. If the write-in ballots were included in the vote total, Fauver would have received 49.97 percent of the vote, Brodie contends.

"What I'm asking for is a runoff election because neither one of us received 50 percent of the vote," Brodie said.

Michael Coleman, Brodie's attorney, said he believes he and his client have a strong case based on state voter law.

"We believe that we have some very strong legal arguments, and definitely believe that we have a chance," Coleman said in an e-mail. "However, there is no way to predict what the court will decide."

If a runoff election is ordered and Brodie wins, he said he is not concerned with having council seats change hands mid-term in District 6, which includes the neighborhoods of Midtown, Ansley Park and Virginia-Highland and has a large population of gay residents.

"I don't see an issue with that," Brodie said. "I've talked with people that know me and my history with the issues and none of them expressed a concern with it."

Fauver said the previous judges' rulings in her favor are evidence the case against her win is without merit.

"I'm irritated about what seems to me to be harassment," Fauver said. "The cost is a cost that I have to bare personally. My legal fines exceed $60,000, so you see why I'm upset."

Fauver's attorney, Robert Highsmith Jr., said he believes the high court will rule in his client's favor.

"We do feel confident," Highsmith said. "We think we're right on the law."

Fauver is going about business as if she will keep her council seat, but acknowledged it's not easy. She said she has a job to do, dispute her legal problems.

"I was elected to serve," Fauver said. "What is irritating is when people say, 'Well she didn't really win.'"

Fauver said her priorities as a councilmember are to deliver services to her constituents, enforce the city's sidewalk replacement program and find ways to save money in the budget.

Eric Ervin can be reached at **eervin@sovo.com.**

ACLU assists in bias claim against med school

MOREHOUSE, continued from **Page 1**

formance, according to copies of the e-mails provided to Southern Voice by Johnson.

The ACLU of Georgia is assisting Johnson as she prepares the paperwork for her complaint with the city of Atlanta, and plans to represent her before the Human Relations Commission, said Beth Littrell, associate legal director of the ACLU of Georgia. No date has been set for officially filing the complaint, Littrell said.

The Human Relations Commission is a seven-member citizen panel charged with enforcing the city's anti-bias ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in areas such as employment and housing on the basis of sexual orientation, among other categories.

Johnson is also using internal routes within the Morehouse School of Medicine to appeal her firing, but said she has not been given a timeline for when the appeal will take place.

The Morehouse School of Medicine is a private, historically black two-year medical school that was created within Morehouse College in 1973. Two years later, the Morehouse School of Medicine became an independent institution, and it currently is not affiliated in any way with Morehouse College, according to Gayle Converse, a communications officer for the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Converse did not provide comment from the medical school on Johnson's accusations by press time, but did confirm that Johnson had been an employee and that she had filed an internal appeal of her termination.

Morehouse School of Medicine includes sexual orientation in its non-discrimination policy, Converse said.

'Outside activities'?

Prior to the July incident when Lewis allegedly accessed Johnson's computer, Johnson said the two women "got along very well." They exchanged Christmas gifts, and Johnson went to see a couple of movies with Lewis's son, Johnson said.

Despite the friendly relationship, Johnson said she was too fearful to tell Lewis about her sexual orientation.

"I knew to keep it under wraps," Johnson said.

Johnson missed two days of work in early July after throwing out her back, and upon returning to work she was locked out of her computer work station and had her office keys taken away, according to memos and e-mails exchanged between Johnson and Lewis.

In those exchanges, Lewis claims that while Johnson was out of the office, the registrar's office received a 33-page non-work related fax requesting Johnson to proofread a document.

"I felt that outside activities such as this may be contributing to your problems," Lewis wrote in a July 17 memo. "As your supervisor, I felt it was within the scope of my authority to investigate further. I chose to log on to the front desk computer ..... and quickly identified a large number of documents that were obviously personal given their titles."

The documents on Johnson's computer indicated she was looking for a new job, and using Morehouse School of Medicine equipment to do personal freelance work, Lewis wrote. Lewis never mentioned discovering a letter from Johnson's girlfriend in any of the exchanges.

But Johnson said Lewis was long aware that she did freelance proofreading, and she disputes using school equipment for outside work. Lewis's accusations of being dissatisfied with Johnson's work performance were merely attempts to provide cover for an unjust firing, Johnson and Littrell charged.

"In any employment discrimination case it's not unusual for employers or supervisors to try to mask their prejudice, or create reasons for the termination that look legitimate in hindsight," Littrell said.

In a written rebuttal to Lewis's charges against her, Johnson noted that before the July incident, Lewis "made no mention to me that my work was lacking in any area ..... [and] prior to her reading my files, I was commended on my work performance."

But that same rebuttal includes indicators that Lewis made earlier complaints. In the memo, Johnson notes that she has made "every adjustment Mrs. Lewis has asked me to make," including wearing bigger clothes to keep her skin from showing while sitting in her chair.

Johnson also wrote that she had gotten better with contacting Lewis as soon as she knew she would be late to or absent from work, while increasing her productivity and decreasing filing errors.

HRC authority remains untested

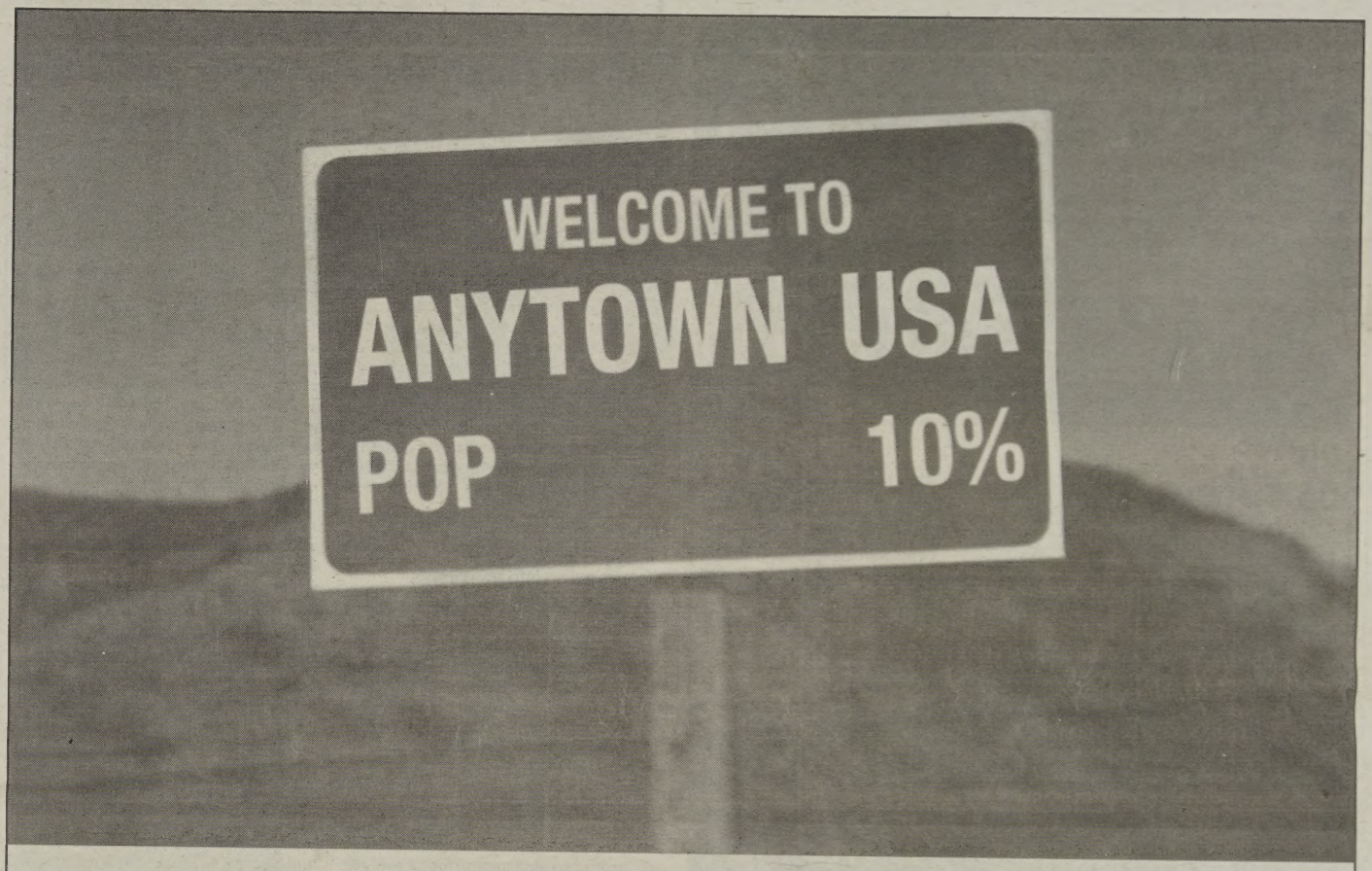
Johnson faces an uphill battle in seeking justice through the Human Relations Commission, which has dismissed a series of gay and lesbian employment discrimination complaints. In its first ever discrimination hearing in 2004, the commission sided with a lesbian and gay man who claimed the Druid Hills Golf Club discriminated against them by not offering spousal benefits to their domestic partners.

Ashland Johnson's termination letter from the Morehouse School of Medicine cited her alleged 'failure to consistently meet the performance and attendance standards' of her job, but she says she was really fired for being gay. (Photo by Bo Shell)

The commission recommended Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin revoke the golf club's liquor license, but after months of maneuvering — including an abandoned lawsuit — Franklin backed off punishing the club, leaving the legitimacy of the Human Relations Commission lingering and untested.

"We're hopeful that the Atlanta Human Relations Commission will rise to its responsibility to properly investigate claims, and if the allegations are found to be true that they will take some action that can send a message to employers that discrimination based on prejudice or bias is not acceptable in Atlanta," Littrell said. "We're not confident that process will be quick or easy, but we're hopeful."

Ryan Lee can be reached at **rlee@sovo.com**



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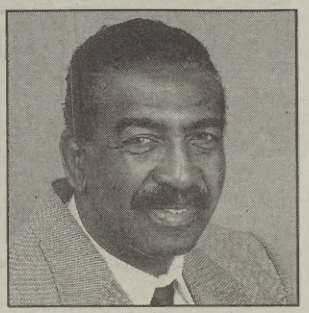
news in brief

Palm Springs mayor regrets 'proud' welcome to anti-gay group

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Criticized for using the word "proud" in a letter welcoming to town a conservative group that says gays can "change" their orientation, the city's mayor now says he should have used different wording, the Desert Sun reported. "I probably would have changed the phrase," openly gay Mayor Ron Oden told the newspaper last week. He said he planned to accept an invitation from Focus on the Family to attend the event. Oden's letter to the group, which will host a Sept. 23 Love Won Out Conference, sparked criticism from local gay residents. The event is also sponsored by the Christian group Exodus International and features speakers who offer ways that they say can help gay men and lesbians change their sexual orientation. They also will suggest ways friends and family members can "cope" with the homosexuality of a loved one, the Desert Sun reported.



Under fire for using the word 'proud' in a letter welcoming a conservative group that says gays can 'change,' Palm Springs, Calif., Mayor **Ron Oden**, who is openly gay, said last week he regretted the phrasing.

N.Y. transgender teacher sparks online info for parents

BATAVIA, N.Y. — Parents have a chance to see what high school students will be taught about transgender issues before young people start school after approval by the Batavia City School District, the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle reported. The presentation material was to be available online as a transgender science teacher starts the new school year as a woman. If parents want their students to be excluded from first-day-of-school discussions, they can write a note and the district will make different arrangements for those students, Superintendent Richard Stutzman Jr. told the Chronicle. Four parents initially wrote letters to have their children be excluded from a classroom led by the trans teacher. An attorney for the school district noted that gender identity disorder is a medically diagnosed condition under New York law and is protected as a disability. "We don't want it to be the elephant in the room," Spitz told the Chronicle.

Alleged drunk driver hits car carrying Ellen, Portia

LOS ANGELES — Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi suffered minor injuries when involved in a car accident on Sept. 1, People Magazine reported. Driving a 2006 Porsche Carrera, DeGeneres was stopped at a light on Sunset Boulevard, and a 2002 Buick LeSabre driven by two men in their 20s stopped behind her. A woman identified as Jeanne Werber, 52, driving a 2002 Porsche Carrera, ran into the back of the Buick, which in turn hit DeGeneres's car, according to an official with the Los Angeles Police Department. Werber had minor cuts on her leg; she was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving, People reported. DeGeneres "had a little neck and back pain, but it doesn't look like it was anything serious," Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. Ken Buscarino told the Associated Press. De Rossi complained of back pain, and the men in the Buick had scratches, but no one involved in the accident needed medical attention. There was minor damage to DeGeneres's car.

Archbishop: Gays must change to be welcome in Anglican church

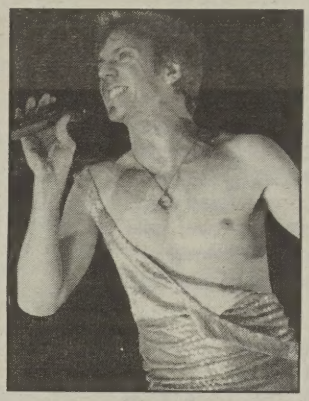
LONDON – Gays must change their behavior if they expect to be welcomed into the Anglican church, the archbishop of Canterbury said, according to the Sunday Telegraph. Rowan Williams, head of the Anglican Communion, is putting distance between himself and his once-liberal support of gay relationships. Instead, Williams is emphasizing that the tradition and teaching of the church is not altered in any way by the consecration of its first openly gay bishop. In a newspaper interview, Williams said it is not time for the church to accept gay relationships, and that the church should welcome gays if not their relationships. "I don't believe inclusion is a value in itself. Welcome is," Williams told a Dutch journalist. "We don't say 'Come in and we ask no questions.' I do believe conversion means conversion of habits, behaviors, ideas, emotions. Ethics is not a matter of a set of abstract rules, it is a matter of living the mind of Christ. That applies to sexual ethics."

British doctors favor equal fertility treatments for lesbians

LONDON — The same National Health Service fertility treatment given to heterosexual couples also should be given to lesbians and single women, doctors said, according to the Daily Express. Citing "a wide disparity" on social criteria used for acceptance onto an NHS program of treatment, the British Fertility Society made the call for equal treatment in a series of recommendations. "Continued inequality of access to treatment is unacceptable in a state-funded health service and the source of considerable distress to a great number of people with fertility problems," Dr. Mark Hamilton, chair of the fertility society, told the Daily Express.

From staff and wire reports

on the record



"I think Kylie [Minogue] would have my head on a plate if I worked with Madonna. Really, I'm not interested in collaborating with her; I love Kylie too much. We had a real ball, and I have a massive crush on her. She is just a really amazing, funny person and really cool."

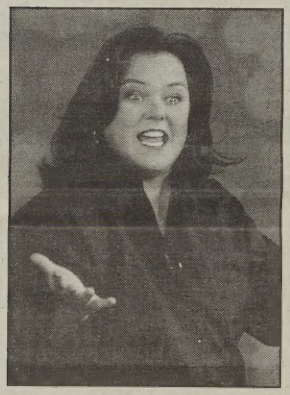
*Gay Scissor Sisters frontman **Jake Shears**, who collaborated with gay icon Kylie Minogue on a track on her CD "Ultimate Kylie" (Ireland Online, Sept. 6)*

"I love seeing [Madonna] perform. It's such a spectacle. To be 48 and look and move like that, it's fabulous."

Gay fashion designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, who designed the costumes for Madonna's "Confessions Tour," on attending his fourth performance of the show (Women's Wear Daily, Sept. 5)

"There is a male quality to the female superstar. There has to be. ... Flocks of executive seagulls will try to take her and drop her onto the rocks. She must learn to fuck them before they fuck her if she is to survive, so she becomes a kind of she-man, a beautiful woman with invisible balls."

Gay actor Rupert Everett about his friends and costars Madonna and Julia Roberts in an excerpt from his upcoming memoir reprinted in U.K.'s Daily Mail (Sept. 4)



"You know what I say when I'm fucking a guy? I say, 'Stop, look at me. Now talk to me.'"

Actress Sharon Stone, to gay actor Rupert Everett as he lay naked on top of her, filming a scene for "A Different Loyalty," as recounted in Everett's upcoming autobiography (Out.com)

"About 10 seconds in some cases."

Sharon Stone, when asked by Rupert Everett how long it takes her to turn a gay man straight (Out.com)

"You all thought I was going to have problems with Elisabeth!"

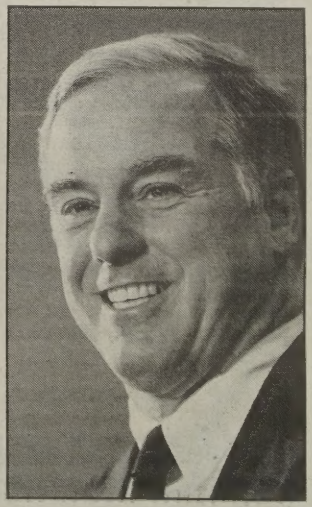
***Rosie O'Donnell**'s response to some good-natured ribbing from "The View" co-host Joy Behar about co-host Elizabeth Hasselbeck's conservative positions, during O'Donnell's debut on the ABC show (ABC, Sept. 5)*

"I never dreamed I'd kiss James Bond. Now that I've done it, I say I hope I'm just the first of many."

Toby Jones, the British actor who plays gay author Truman Capote in the upcoming film "Infamous," on his on-screen kiss with Daniel Craig, the actor who is set to debut as the new James Bond in "Casino Royale" (Associated Press, Sept. 1)

"Feeling that one is trapped in the body of someone of the opposite sex does not make the person 'gay.' It means he or she is a transsexual. Your friend needs understanding, not isolation."

Advice from syndicated columnist Dear Abbey to a man in his 60s asking about his a friend's acknowledgment that he likes to wear women's clothing (syndicated column, Sept. 1)



"We consider the Washington Blade the New York Post of the gay and lesbian press corps. They're not credible and they have somebody there who has an agenda which is clearly not favorable to the Democratic Party so we simply don't give them any credence."

*Democratic Party Chair **Howard Dean**, on the Blade's coverage of his decision to fire Donald Hitchcock, the party's gay outreach chair, a week after Hitchcock's domestic partner, Paul Yandura, publicly criticized Dean for not helping the battle against statewide anti-marriage initiatives (IN Los Angeles Magazine, Sept. issue)*

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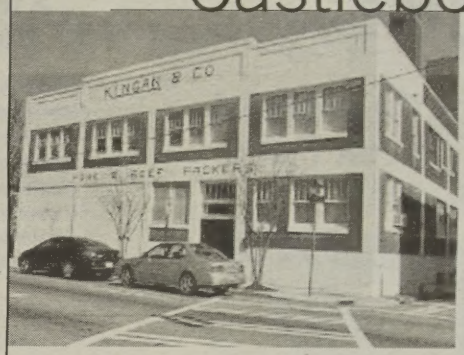

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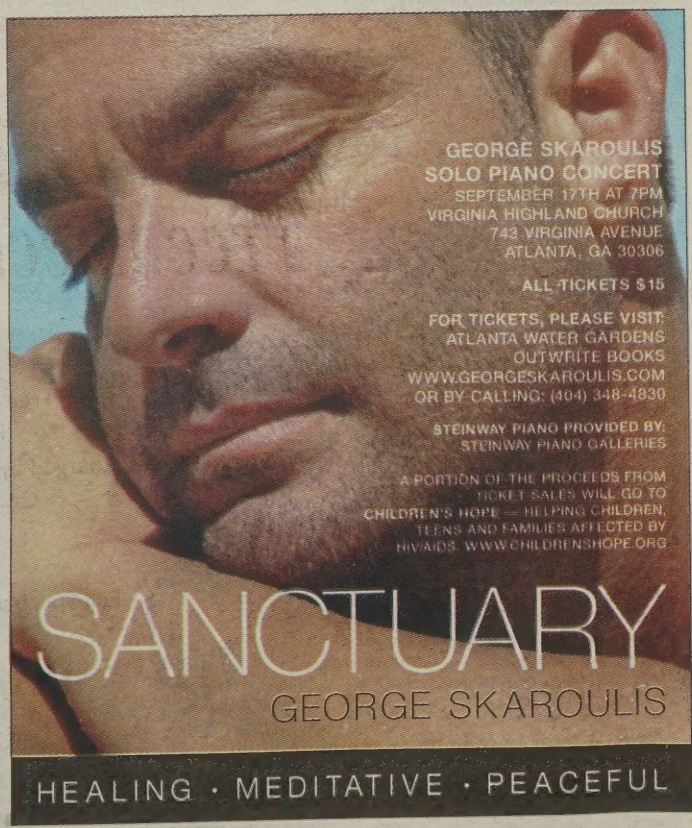

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national news

New group seeks rights for gay immigrants

Out4Immigration joins others seeking change

By JOSHUA LYNSEN

A new group is adding West Coast voices to the growing chorus of gays calling for change in U.S. immigration laws.

Out4Immigration, based in San Francisco, is working with other gay rights and immigration groups to promote a bill that would allow gay Americans to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration.

"It's got to happen sooner rather than later," said Belinda Ryan, the group's president, "because so many people are hurt by this discrimination."

Out4Immigration championed the Uniting American Families Act during several Labor Day immigration rallies in California.

Although not part of the proposed immigration reform package, UAFA has growing support in Congress.

In the last four months, 11 senators and House members joined the list of bill supporters. The legislation, lead by Congressman Jerrold Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), has 118 sponsors. Nearly all of the sponsors are Democrats, including the only two from Georgia, Reps. John Lewis and Cynthia McKinney.

Ryan, a 42-year-old lesbian from England who's in America on a worker's visa, admitted UAFA lacks the support it needs for immediate passage.

"I think at the moment, there's so much going on with the existing immigration legislation," she said. "It's too comprehensive a bill to be included in the Senate bill or the House bill."

West Coast voices

Out4Immigration, which has about 200 members, was founded earlier this year to give voice to West Coast gays afflicted by current immigration restrictions.

Ryan said her group works in conjunction with other gay organizations, such as Immigration Equality in New York, to reunify bi-national gay couples and end the U.S. ban on HIV-positive immigrants.

Rachel Tiven, the New York group's executive director, said the collective efforts keep those causes alive.

"Immigration Equality is seeing a real uptick of interest in LGBT and HIV immigration rights," she said, "and that's a terrific development."

Out4Immigration Vice President Mickey Lim said such proactive efforts are essential.

"Part of our strategy is developing a network of supporters," he said, "so when the political winds do change, the groundwork will be there."

Lim, a 42-year-old gay man whose partner from Singapore is in the U.S. on a temporary work visa, said the upcoming elections could be a catalyst for change.

"You need to have simply a change from the Draconian leadership, where no ideas beyond their ideology gets any time whatsoever," Lim said. "Once a crack in that wall of power occurs, I think at that point, there's hope."

Lim said that's why Out4Immigration works as much on public education as issue advocacy.

"The whole point at this point is not to sit back and wait," he said. "The whole point is to build a coalition of support — to get the idea of justice and equality in the immigration system on the forefront of minds of people who are able to effect change."

Out4Immigration is working with other gay rights and immigration groups to promote the Uniting American Families Act, which would allow gay Americans to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration. Group members joined recent immigration rallies to highlight their cause.

MORE INFO

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Immigration Equality
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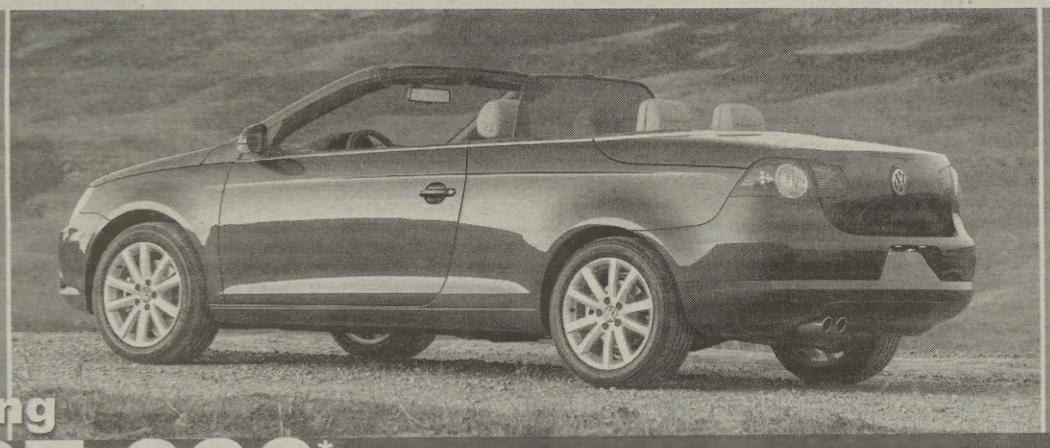

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national news

Gay labor group blasts Wal-Mart partnership

Other Wal-Mart critics call deal with gay business group a 'positive step'

By ZACK HUDSON

A controversial partnership between a gay business network and Wal-Mart, the largest private employer in the nation, represents nothing more than "shameless marketing," according to Pride at Work, a gay constituency of the AFL-CIO labor union.

The remarks came on the heels of an agreement between Wal-Mart and the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce that the chamber says opens a link to gay-owned businesses to join the retail behemoth's manufacturing and service supply chain with preferred minority vendor status.

"Our community is a smart community, and we can see a shameless marketing opportunity when it comes," said Jeremy Bishop, Pride at Work program director.

Bishop questioned the validity of the arrangement, announced by the NGLCC on Aug. 21, and warned that Wal-Mart interference could be a death knell for smaller gay businesses, as well as U.S. jobs.

"If there were any LGBT organization or company big enough to supply Wal-Mart, what Wal-Mart does is once they have a contract with you, they encourage you to send your manufacturing and production overseas. So in the end, it will just deplete more jobs here in America," he said.

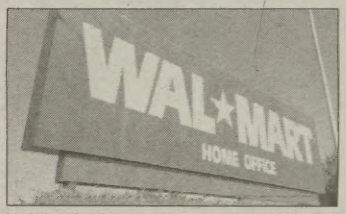
"Even if they were 100 percent perfect on LGBT issues, it doesn't make up for the fact that they don't treat their employees well," Bishop said, echoing years of critical barbs hurled at Wal-Mart from labor groups, who accuse the company of shilling out low wages and expensive benefits while ignoring meaningful diversity.

NGLCC President Justin Nelson acknowledged the criticism from Pride at Work and other labor groups, but shied away from entering the fight.

"That's something for Wal-Mart and the unions to work out," he said.

To enter into partnership with the NGLCC, Wal-Mart paid $25,000 in annual dues to become a business sponsor of the Supplier Diversity Initiative. According to Nelson, the fee was arranged on an established sliding scale which charges between $5,000 and $25,000 to companies that wish to join the program, based on corporate revenues.

But Pride at Work's Bishop balked at the partnership price in context of his estimate that Wal-Mart earns more than $10 billion annually.



Wal-Mart, headquartered in Bentonville, Ark., has received criticism from both social conservatives and gay labor union activists for its recent partnership with a national gay commerce group. (Photo by AP)

"If we're going to be shills for corporate money, let's ask for a little bit more money. Wal-Mart is a billion dollar business, and they're giving us $25,000?" he asked.

Wal-Mart press office employees declined comment for this story. Wal-Mart spokesperson Bob McAdams has not responded to repeated interview requests from Southern Voice.

DP benefits urged

Despite the AFL-CIO skepticism, another Wal-Mart critic, Wal-Mart Watch, has come out in favor of the partnership and Wal-Mart's policies for gay employees, which include recognizing same-sex couples for employee medical and family leave-of-absence polices, as well as establishing an internal organization for gay Wal-Mart employees.

The company also added sexual orientation to its non-discrimination policy in 2003.

"We view this partnership as a step in the right direction," said Nu Wexler, spokesperson for the watchdog group with close ties to labor unions. "We would encourage Wal-Mart to seriously consider same-sex partner benefits. We believe that treating employees with dignity and respect should also include fair wages and affordable health care."

Wal-Mart spokesperson Jeff Fogleman declined comment last week on whether the company is considering offering domestic partner benefits.

Zack Hudson can be reached at **zhudson@sovo.com**.

MORE INFO

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national news

Sept. 11 introduced U.S. to gay families

On fifth anniversary, activists ponder impact of attacks on gay couples' rights

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Less than a week after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks rocked the United States and much of the world, Tom Hay sat tensely in a pew near the front of St. Matthews Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Minutes earlier, dozens of flight crew employees of American Airlines, wearing their formal, navy blue dress uniforms, filed into the cathedral to join Hay and hundreds of others for a memorial mass for pilot David Charlebois.

Charlebois, Hay's domestic partner for nearly 13 years, held the position of first officer onboard American Airlines Flight 77 at the time terrorists hijacked the Boeing 757 jetliner and crashed it into the Pentagon.

"It sounds mushy, but we saw each other from across the room, and that was it," Hay told Southern Voice in 2002, on the first anniversary of the terrorist attacks. "He was the first and only person I ever had a serious relationship with."

Hay was among at least 22 known survivors of same-sex partners that died in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which included crashing two other jetliners into New York's World Trade Center buildings. A fourth hijacked plane plunged into the countryside in Western Pennsylvania.

Most of the 22 gay widows and widowers would soon face a tangle of legal obstacles over inheritance rights and a first-of-its-kind victim compensation program offered by the federal government that would complicate their lives and, in many cases, add to their grief.

But on that day at St. Matthews, Hay was afforded the full dignity and respect of a surviving spouse in a national tragedy that appeared to be shared equally by all those who suffered the loss of loved ones.

"It had such an impact because the loss was about death and relationships," said Jennifer Pizer, senior counsel for Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund, a gay litigation group that represented several of the same-sex partner survivors in the 9/11 attacks.

"The grief and loss was the same between heterosexual and same-sex couples, and a perception of this seemed to come through to much of the public," Pizer said.

Yet Pizer and other gay rights advocates familiar with the 9/11 tragedy said that, five years later, they remain uncertain whether the memory of lost same-sex partners would continue to spillover into the political area and prompt lawmakers to approve domestic partner, civil union and even same-sex marriage laws.

In the days following the attacks, Americans learned through the news media of other gay victims of the 9/11 attacks.

Plump-cheeked preschooler David Brandhorst-Gamboa and his two fathers, Daniel Brandhorst and Ronald Gamboa, were returning home to Los Angeles from a vacation at Cape Cod on United Airlines Flight 175. They died together as it slammed into the World Trade Center.

Eugene Clark, whose partner's daughter affectionately called him her "stepqueen," worked for Aon Corporation in the World Trade Center.

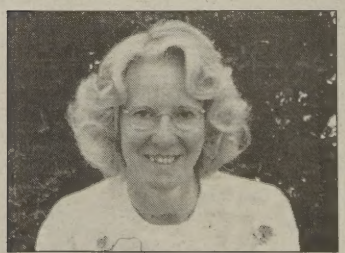
Mychal Judge, a gay Catholic priest who served as a chaplain for the New York City Fire Department, was giving last rites to an injured firefighter when the Twin Towers collapsed, killing them both and many others.

Sheila Hein, a Maryland resident who left behind her partner of 17 years, was working in the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it.

And perhaps the most well-known gay 9/11 victim, public relations executive and rugby player Mark Bingham, helped fight back against terrorists on United Airlines Flight 93, causing it to crash in a rural Pennsylvania field instead of reaching its target in Washington, D.C.

Bingham's mother reported that her son informed her in a cell phone conversation that his plane had been hijacked and he expected to join several other passengers in an attempt to wrestle control of the plane from the hijackers.

Bingham was among the 9/11 victims portrayed in the recently release film "United 93," named after the United Airlines flight in which all passengers perished.



Peggy Neff lost the 'love of [her] life,' **Sheila Hein**, in the Sept. 11 attack on the Pentagon.

'Unprecedented' support for grieving gay partners

In the months following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Lambda Legal; the Empire State Pride Agenda, a New York gay rights group; the Human Rights Campaign; and the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force stepped in to provide legal and financial assistance to some of the surviving same-sex partners.

"It became clear to us that some were falling through the cracks of existing disaster relief programs," said Joe Tarver, spokesperson for the Empire State Pride Agenda.

The groups created a joint "September 11 Gay & Lesbian Family Fund," which provided about $17,000 in emergency relief for each of 22 same-sex couple survivors, Tarver said. He said the groups raised about $379,000 for the fund.

Although **Mark Bingham** (right) was lauded as a hero of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania, some initial press reports did not acknowledge that he was gay.

ESPA and HRC, among other groups, met with top officials of the American Red Cross, which initially limited its relief services to blood relatives or married spouses of 9/11 victims. In a development that disaster relief observers considered unprecedented, the Red Cross adopted a new set of criteria for defining a "family member" eligible for relief assistance that included domestic partners.

Agreeing to suggestions by ESPA, HRC, and Lambda Legal, Red Cross officials adopted criteria such as a joint bank account, the naming of a partner as an insurance beneficiary, or a joint lease on an apartment as verification that an applicant for relief was a legitimate partner eligible for relief services.

Red Cross officials went a step further by putting the new criteria in place for all future disasters such as hurricanes and floods.

The New York State Legislature was the next to take steps to provide assistance to same-sex survivors in the 9/11 attacks. With the support of Republican Gov. George Pataki, the legislature passed a bill that provided state worker's compensation benefits to domestic partners of 9/11 victims.

Another bill approved by the legislature enabled same-sex partners and their children to be eligible for a newly created World Trade Center Memorial Scholarship Program. The legislature passed a third measure calling on the federal government to include same-sex partners in federal relief programs aimed at 9/11 survivors.

Over the next few years, the legislature adopted domestic partner measures that apply to all state residents in addition to 9/11 partners. Hospital visitation rights, the right to take position of the remains of a deceased partner, and eligibility of partners of state employees to join credit unions were among the same-sex partner benefits included in the domestic partner bills.

Gay rights advocates described the federal relief program put in place by the Bush administration as a "mixed bag" for same-sex partner survivors of the 9/11 attacks.

Congress approved the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund, which allocated more than $7 billion to provide compensation to families of 2,880 people killed and 2,680 people injured in the terrorist attacks. Officials said the program was aimed at providing a viable alternative to thousands of individual wrongful death lawsuits that likely would have emerged against airline companies and the company that operated the World Trade Center if such a fund were not offered.

The legislation creating the fund did not restrict unmarried relatives or partners from receiving compensation under the program, a development that prompted gay Congressman Barney Frank (D-Mass.) to say it opened the way for inclusion for domestic partners.

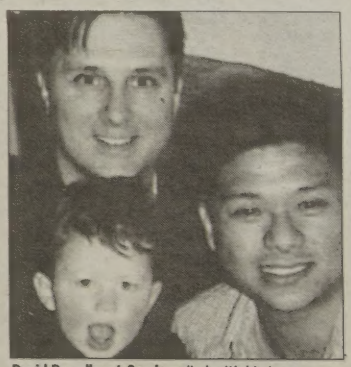
But implementing regulations prepared by special master Kenneth Fienberg, whom President Bush named to run the program, called for leaving the decision on who was eligible for relief to the probate laws of the individual states where the victims lived.

That policy meant that same-sex partners would likely be shut out of the program in nearly all states unless the couples had wills that designated the surviving partner the beneficiary of the deceased person's estate.

Pizer of Lambda Legal said her group knows of cases where some of the 22 known surviving gay partners worked amicably with blood relatives of the deceased person and obtained a share of the compensation allocation. Feinberg said the average disbursement came to more than $2 million for the estate of each person killed in the 9/11 attacks.

In other cases, Pizer said, parents and siblings prevented a same-sex partner from receiving any compensation. In such cases, the same-sex partners did not have a bill or other legal documents that legally recognized their relationships.

"One of the key lessons for our community in this tragedy is not to put off preparing basic legal documents such as a will," Pizer said. "It's a very affirming and loving thing to do."



David Brandhorst-Gamboa died with his two fathers, **Daniel Brandhorst** and **Ronald Gamboa**, when United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into the World Trade Center.

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editorial

Judge me by my enemies

Ten years after conceiving Window Media, I leave with enormous pride in how we ask the **tough questions** of people in power.

By CHRIS CRAIN

IT WAS TEN YEARS AGO this weekend in my home in Virginia-Highland, and I was sitting in the laundry room, the makeshift location for my home computer. Next to the keyboard was a stack of books I'd checked out from the public library on how to write a business plan, and that's exactly what I was doing.

It was rejection that brought me to that place. I had applied to be the managing editor of Southern Voice, and couldn't even manage to get an interview. Seeing as how I worked as an attorney at one of Atlanta's largest law firms, earning four times the salary, the SoVo folks probably thought I was crazy. If they wouldn't hire me, I reasoned, then I would start a company to buy the paper.

Ten years later, thanks to the talent and contributions of too many to mention, that business plan has led to the newspaper you are reading. The company was Window Media, and the idea behind it was to raise the bar on the quality of journalism in the gay press.

Back in the mid-'90s, local gay and lesbian publications ran the gamut, from "bar rags" devoted to nightlife and sex, to small community newspapers that circulate largely among the activist and group joiners among us. Very few aspired to something more, attempting serious news reports alongside the lighter fare.

I had come out just a few years earlier in Washington, D.C., inspired and encouraged by the political activism I read about each week in the Washington Blade. I wanted to see more gay communities, in Atlanta and elsewhere, served by the same quality journalism.

To me, a newspaper ought to be judged first and foremost on how well it does one thing: ask the tough questions of people with power. Whether through objective journalism on its news pages or pointed, provocative viewpoints in its opinion pages, a newspaper ought to be playing watchdog, and let its readers play watchdog over it.

OF COURSE, ASKING TOUGH QUESTIONS isn't a recipe for popularity. It's been said you can judge a good man by how many friends he has, and a good journalist by how many enemies he has, although it's a point on which not all agree.

I remember a few years ago seeing Judy Wieder, the former editor responsible for turning the once-proud Advocate magazine into a gay version of Us Weekly, accept a special award from the Human Rights Campaign.

She gushed about the organization in her acceptance speech, even bragging that she adopted a policy early on that she wouldn't publish criticism of our hard-working gay activists. A policy like that doesn't serve the publication, its readers, or the activists very well.

It's also not in my personal makeup. As editor of Sycamore High School's newspaper, the Leaf — hey, I didn't pick the name — I earned the principal's ire with biting exposes on his policy against girl's shorts riding more than one inch above the knee, as well as his decision to ban T-shirts designed by the boy's water polo team. Their slogan: "It takes to play water polo" — only instead of a blank it was a water polo ball with an apostrophe "s" following.

In college, I was editor of the Vanderbilt Hustler — hey, I didn't pick that name either, and we had it a good century before Larry Flynt. On a very conservative Southern campus, I assigned stories on the racial segregation of the Greek system that dominated campus social life.

I editorialized on the subject as well, along with the shoddy quality of campus housing, recreational facilities and parking. On the graduation stage, the chancellor shook my hand and with a big grin said, "I've never been happier to see one our students accept his diploma."

In law school at Harvard, I was editor for a student newspaper on a liberal campus that often felt more closed-minded than college had. It was the late '80s and the dawn of "political correctness," before Rush Limbaugh et al. bludgeoned lefties so much with the phrase that it lost its original meaning.

I thought it anathema that students would be hissed in class in law school classrooms for challenging the constitutionality of affirmative action, a viewpoint well within the American mainstream, and I said so from the editorial page.

In response, the president of the black student group distributed a letter to every law student, saying, "I can't wait to graduate so I won't have to deal with ignorant white males like Chris Crain." I'm guessing the George W. Bush years have been difficult ones for him.

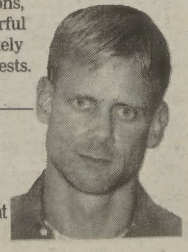
TEN YEARS AFTER THAT LABOR DAY weekend, I am enormously proud of the journalism inside the pages of our publications, which now include not only Southern Voice and David-Atlanta Magazine, but the Houston Voice, two publications in South Florida, and the Washington Blade — long considered the New York Times of the gay press.

Then as before, asking tough questions hasn't won us any popularity contests. In an interview last week with Karen Ocamb of IN Los Angeles magazine, Democratic Party Chair Howard Dean scoffed when she referred to the Washington Blade as the "gay newspaper of record." He responded by the dismissing the Blade as "the New York Post of the gay and lesbian press corps."

"They're not credible and they have somebody there who has an agenda which is clearly not favorable to the Democratic Party so we simply don't give them any credence," he said. This is, mind you, the same Howard Dean who lent credence to Pat Robertson's chops as a journalist by appearing on his "700 Club." Reverend Robertson doesn't have an anti-Democrat "agenda," does he Governor Dean?

Now, after a decade of doing this, it's time once again for me to walk across that graduation stage, but I leave knowing these publications are in very capable hands. Next week will be my last as executive editor. I am moving to Rio De Janeiro to be with my partner, who is Brazilian and cannot come here to be with me because U.S. immigration laws don't recognize same-sex relationships.

You can be sure that the journalists at Window Media's newspapers will continue asking tough questions, pissing off the powerful and winning absolutely zero popularity contests.



@ Chris Crain is executive editor of Southern Voice and can be reached at ccrain@sovo.com.

letters

No comparing marriage fight in Georgia, N.J.

To the Editors:

Re "Bashing marriage should shame trans activist" (letters, Sept. 1):

Toby Grace's name-calling and extreme reaction to Monica Helms' op-ed ("'Marriage-jacking' the GLBT agenda," op-ed by Monica Helms, Aug. 11) is quite perturbing, for several reasons.

First of all, I know both people and consider them friends, although we've been known to disagree at times.

I'm not sure if Toby realizes that Monica is from Georgia. The experience we in the LGBT community in New Jersey have had in the last few years working together for domestic partnership rights and for civil marriage has been very positive. I would wholeheartedly agree with Toby that the observable facts in New Jersey are most probably quite different from the facts Monica has observed in Georgia.

As a member of the N.J. Domestic Partnership Task force, I can say that LGBT folks of all races and economic demographics here have worked very well together for marriage equality and transgender rights. However, that was not always the case in New Jersey.

Prior to the Lambda Legal marriage lawsuit and Garden State Equality, there was a small marriage movement centered on a white gay male political organization. Transgender inclusion? Are you kidding? Fuhgeddaboudit!

I was neither at the Compton Cafeteria riots nor at Stonewall, but have several friends who were, including one who was present at both. I had known Sylvia Rivera for several years, and attending her wake, I saw a number of rich white gay men stand in front of her casket and, I guess to shed their guilt, publicly apologized for turning their backs, for trivializing and denigrating drag queens and transpeople, while seeking rights and recognition for themselves. Those indeed are facts that cannot be forgotten or denied.

Knowing Toby, I would never call him a "fat cat" or elitist, indeed his open "queerness" makes him a unique and quite likeable character, so I cannot understand how he seemed to "take personally" the sharp edge of Monica's op-ed.

BARBRA 'BABS' CASBAR
Edison, N.J.

LOOK, IF IT WERE UP TO ME, I'D BE HAPPY TO LET GAY PEOPLE SERVE IN THE U.S. MILITARY. BUT THE FACT IS, HOMOSEXUALS ARE BAD FOR UNIT COHESION AND MORALE.
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Editors' note: *The letter writer is vice chair of Garden State Equality.*

Sexism lies behind lesbian's objections to trans men

To the Editors:

Re "Much ado about pronouns" (op-ed by Jennifer Vanasco, Sept. 1):

Implying that trans-men would be perfectly happy if they just accepted themselves as butch lesbians is not only insensitive and invalidating, it espouses the same king of sexism Jennifer Vanasco claims to oppose.

Did she stop to consider her friend "Sam" has always considered himself male, despite biological evidence as her (or anyone's) "sister"?

Particularly offensive is the suggestion that the presence or absence of a penis is the sole factor in determining masculinity. Is a woman, then, who has lost her breast or uterus to cancer or other medical complications no longer a woman? For that matter, is a genetic male with damaged genitalia a woman?

More importantly, she's missing the point. For many trans guys, being trans is not about being hyper-masculine, it's about becoming the person they've always felt themselves to be. The trans-butch theory doesn't hold up when applied to guys who may be softer, less macho, but guys just the same.

Before she assigns unwanted roles to strangers, Ms. Vanasco would do well to meet some trans guys, talk to them, and try to understand how they feel. We will only achieve true equality once everyone is free to be his or her true self, outside of other's judgments.

JAY BURKE
Atlanta

A vagina does not the woman make

To the Editors:

Re "Much ado about pronouns" (op-ed by Jennifer Vanasco, Aug. 25):

Jennifer Vanasco misses the point in her column about her friend "Sam."

Sam is not a woman just because he still has a vagina. Right now he is a man with a vagina. His brain sex is male; therefore, he is more comfortable with male pronouns and a male identity and expression. It is not about male privilege or a particular political stance.

Similarly, I did not become a woman, I always was one, I just manifested it differently before because I had been assigned male at birth.

And no matter how wonderful it is to be a woman (and it is), I did not gender transition for that reason but because it is who I am.

DANA BEYER
Chevy Chase, Md.

Editors' note: *The letter writer is a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates' 18th District.*

Send letters and op-ed column submissions to **editor@sovo.com**.

THE Q

What is or what should be the top issue on the black gay agenda?

Developing, supporting and nurturing our leadership and honoring and respecting our elders, building on what they have given to us.

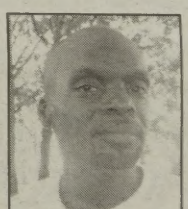
AJ Jones, 28
Oakland, Calif.

Unity. It's about the issue of people doing what they want to do instead of what they need to do.

Deborah Johnson, 29
Gwinnett

HIV/AIDS. It's killing our community in great numbers. We need to talk to people, educate people and not be ashamed.

Vincent Allen Jr., 20
West End

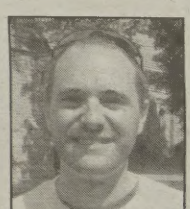


We need more dollars going to HIV/AIDS. The black community as a whole needs to pull together and help each other, bridging the gap between gay and straight.

Aaron Scott, 42
Doraville

I can't see a black gay agenda — it's everyone's agenda and that's marriage. Couples of a certain age have assets between both of them. I've been with my partner for four years, and our situation could be different if we could marry.

Sylvia Addye, 48
Atlantic City, N.J.



I came today because I love my black GLBT brothers and sisters and really want to support them. We were saying 'equal rights and justice today.' That's what we were shouting all the way down here, so it seems like that's the biggest priority for all gay people.

Rev. **Josh Noblitt**, 28
South Atlanta

*Interviews conducted at Atlanta's Black Gay Pride March on Monday, Sept. 4.

Compiled by BO SHELL

viewpoint JULIE ENSZER

Exiting the closet was never a good strategy for winning equality. Societal problems require **collective action**.

Getting over coming out

IT'S BEEN A HARD CONCLUSION FOR me to embrace. I organized "Speak Outs" for National Coming Out Day in the 1990s. I advocated coming out as critical to our liberation.

I've come out to everyone and reveled it in. When I ran out of family members, I moved on to dry cleaners and grocery baggers and state senators and plumbers and metro passengers. I can't think of a person I haven't told.

Even still, it's come time for me to admit that coming out is a flawed strategy. In fact, coming out is the wrong strategy for queer liberation.

Our focus on coming out as the means to our equality has resulted in a generation of narcissistic queer people. Sticking to the present course will prevent us from ever achieving our full vision.

That's why I'm not celebrating National Coming Out Day on Oct. 11 this year.

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY WAS instigated as a project on the first anniversary of the 1987 March on Washington. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and seven years into a Reagan presidency we knew was reshaping America, coming out was embraced by gay and lesbian and bisexual people (trans-visibility was yet to be debated).

Polls in the mid-1990s showed that coming out was working. People who knew GLB people were more likely to support equal rights for GLB people. Primarily, they supported ending employment discrimination.

Coming out, however, relies on personal action — naming our sexual orientation — as a way to address a societal problem — homophobia and heterosexism.

Seen positively, it is an extension of feminist consciousness-raising, but in reality, it displaces collective action and community solutions by putting the onus of individual responsibility for a societal problem. Ultimately, I don't believe that we can solve societal problems without societal actions.

Now almost 20 years into celebrating coming out as the way to win equality — and it was embraced well-before to 1988 — we should ask: Is coming out sustainable as a strategy over the next 20 years? I think not.

Besides new people coming out, young people or late bloomers, I think we have exhausted the potential and promise of coming out. Certainly, people will continue to do it, but as of right now the closeted people are so committed to hiding that they may remain so until they die.

Moreover, it seems foolhardy to rely on new people coming out as our strategy for liberation. What about the rest of us? When we have exhausted coming out possibilities, how are we to contribute to our movement for liberation?

Knowing a GLBT person personally does not guarantee an individual's support for marriage equality as much as it did for non-discrimination policies in the workplace.

MOST IMPORTANTLY, THOUGH,COMING out was a misguided strategy from the very beginning. I read everywhere profiles of gay people who say, "The greatest thing I have done is come out." Frankly, I roll my eyes.

I want to ask them, "OK, coming out is what you are doing for you, in order to live openly and freely. Now what are you doing for the world?"

Coming out is about "me." What I do. What I say. What I share. I. I! I? What about you and us and others?

Homophobia and heterosexism are societal problems. They need societal solutions. Societal solutions come not from the words of one person but from the deeds and commitments of communities of people.

Coming out may make us more comfortable; we may feel proud about telling the truth. But to achieve liberation, to end homophobia and heterosexism, we're going to need to act collectively.

We need to do something greater for the world than tell our own stories. We are going to have to be responsible for our communal well-being. We are going to have to start living our lives as though we are not only for ourselves but for others as well.

@ **Julie R. Enszer,** a resident of University Park, Md., runs a anti-nuclear non-profit and can be reached at JREnszer@aol.com.

action! alert

Something about lesbian Barbie

Mattel denies reports of planned suit over art

By ELIZABETH PERRY

A BRAZILIAN ARTIST WHOSE PAINTINGS portray Barbie as a lesbian claims the doll's manufacturer Mattel has threatened to sue her over the matter.

The Jornal de São Paulo newspaper reported that Karin Schwarz's paintings of Barbie are on display in a bar in the city of Curitiba. An unidentified spokesperson for Mattel, Inc. is quoted as saying the company would initiate legal action against Schwarz for portraying Barbie as a lesbian unless she withdrew the exhibit.

"Barbie is a very proper lady, and she is not happy about being portrayed as something she isn't," the Mattel spokesperson is quoted as saying. "We are going to sue, and we hope that this teaches people a lesson. Also, Barbie is 46 years old, she should be respected!"

Lisa Marie Bongiovanni, vice president of corporate communications at Mattel, Inc., this week disputed the story's accuracy and said the company has no plans to sue Schwarz over her artwork.

"Additionally, after an investigation with our Brazilian subsidiary, we have been unsuccessful in identifying the source that was widely attributed in the Brazilian media to be a Mattel spokesperson," Bongiovanni said.

Schwarz furnished an e-mail copy of what she says is a legal document in Portuguese from De Vivo, Whitaker & Castro, a law firm in Brazil who Schwarz said has begun legal proceedings against her on behalf of Mattel. Schwarz insisted her claim to being sued is legitimate and said Mattel is now confusing consumers with a different story.

"They were very clear [in the legal document]," said Schwarz. "I withdraw the exhibition and remove the pictures from my website or they will sue me civil and criminally," she said. "There is no rumor, That is a real fact. I really want the truth to win."

Brazilian artist **Karin Schwarz** sits surrounded by some of the paintings in her 'Amazing Girls' collection.

The artwork that started the controversy is part of an exhibit called "Amazing Girls" by Schwarz. Some of the 31 painted images in the collection show Barbie in sexual situations with other women, including a ménage-a-trois, and some Barbie-on-Barbie poses.

Most of the images are portraits of Barbie as a flaxen-haired California girl, a raven-haired Betty Paige type and a cocoa-skinned, curly-haired natural beauty, embracing other Barbie dolls. In Schwarz's art, Barbie, an American icon and symbol of rampant consumerism, is stripped of her usual trappings so she can show her less materialistic side.

The reaction to her artwork has been mostly positive, said Schwarz, who said she will not agree to withdraw the paintings.

"If it has to be done, I will do it for sure," she said.

Defaming Barbie?

Schwarz's case is not the first time Mattel has gone after Barbie take-offs. Among the most memorable was a line of "anti-Barbie dolls" sold 10 years ago in San Francisco boutiques. The dolls were Barbies that were redesigned into Big Dyke Barbie, Drag Queen Barbie (Ken in a wig, gown, pumps and falsies) and Trailer Park Barbie. Mattel ordered the shops to stop selling the dolls.

A 2001 case involved photographer Tom Forsythe's pictures of Barbie in sexually provocative poses and outfits. The court ruled in Forsythe's favor, saying he was within his rights to use the dolls in his work.

ACTION! INFO

Karin Schwarz
'Amazing Girls'
www.karuska.com.br

Mattel, Inc.
333 Continental Boulevard
El Segundo, CA 90245-5012
310-252-2000

ABOUT ACTION ALERT: Action Alert is a Forum section feature that informs readers of issues for response and lobbying. Send suggestions and comments to forum@sovo.com.

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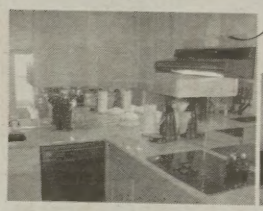

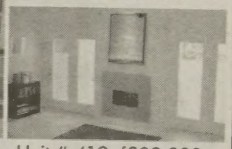

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SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Mama's boy

Film mothers bring on the drama as they face their gay sons' impending same-sex nuptials.

Page 29

'Not for art's sake'

'Drag King Dreams' takes activist look into lives of oppressed trans people and how they find hope

By DYANA BAGBY

GENDER IS NOT AS simple as "he" or "she" for transgender activist and author Leslie Feinberg.

Feinberg identifies as a "masculine, lesbian, female-to-male cross-dresser and transgenderist," but the author perhaps best known for the 1993 novel "Stone Butch Blues" prefers to be identified by gender neutral pronouns — such as "ze," a derivation of "she" and "he," or "hir," a combination of "him" and "her."

The gender neutral pronouns used more and more by queer people who refuse to identify as either male or female are discussed in Feinberg's 1999 book of speeches and essays compiled in "Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue."

"Our queerness doesn't have a language for it yet," Feinberg says, discussing her most recent novel, "Drag King Dreams," released in March.

"There are cross-dressers, tri-gendered people — the LGBT is just an approximation of what's out there."

IT WAS FEINBERG'S 1993 NOVEL "Stone Butch Blues," winner of the American Library Association Gay & Lesbian Book Award and the Lambda Literary Award, that put a face on the struggles transgender people face in daily life. Protagonist Jess Goldberg, a working-class lesbian conflicted with her gender identity, struggles with where she fits in the "he-she" social structure during the pre-Stonewall era.

Feinberg says the story resonated with many readers who for the first time saw their lives and struggles recognized in writing. Today, it stands as one of the iconic gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender books.

Sixteen years later, Feinberg follows with "Drag King Dreams," the story of Max Rabinowitz, a New York loner and a bouncer in an East Village drag club. Rabinowitz finds solace with a tight-knit group of gender queer friends who also don't fit exactly into male/female categories, and who constantly face violence, hatred, oppression and chaos in post-9/11 New York as they try to eke out a simple but meaningful existence.

Rabinowitz, who identifies as a "suit-and-tie butch; bad-ass bulldagger, old-gay drag king," even acknowledges that working in gay bars offers a simple amenity — being able to use the bathroom without looks or stares or even harsh words.

From a heterosexual male cross-dresser who is violently murdered to a drag queen friend with AIDS who receives poor treatment in the hospital after the staff learns she is biologically male, Feinberg pulls no punches in showing the harsh realities in the lives of her characters.

"There's bleakness to the existence circumscribed by oppression, but there is also hope," Feinberg stresses.

"I'm not a professional writer. I'm not making art for art's sake. I write as part of my activism," Feinberg says. "The e-mails I received when 'Drag King Dreams' came out were from people saying they feel so hopeful now — they thought no one else lived at the intersection of oppression, that they didn't have a language for it. And after they read it, they wanted to do something to help change the world."

Feinberg says she doesn't try to interpret the world, but change it.

"I planted [the book] like a flag to say, 'Here's the subject, the life, who wants to come talk about it,'" she says.

"DRAG KING DREAMS" IS DEFINITELY an activist's novel. Topics range from the war in Iraq to communism versus capitalism, from the hatred of Muslims to the war between Israel and Palestine and gender neutral pronouns. The novel reads a great deal like a textbook with an agenda, intermingled with glimpses into various characters' lives.

Gender neutral pronouns pop up unexpectedly — and italicized — in a small portion of the novel when Rabinowitz begins work at a new gay bar where young drag king performers are a huge attraction. When interacting with the performers, Rabinowitz identifies them as "hir" or "ze."

"As to gender-neutral pronouns — they are used for characters in this novel who either don't identify as he or she, or else the viewer — in this case the protagonist Max — does not know how they would identify," Feinberg explains.

The audience Feinberg seeks is not mainstream. The activist writes for readers who live in the margins and need a voice in society.

"I wrote this book for who I always write for — for the people who are the most downtrodden, for my neighbors, my co-workers, people in jail, for people who tell me they usually don't read books," Feinberg says. "I think they read it because I write in a voice they can trust. It's coming from my own experiences, even if their experiences aren't necessarily the same."

But writing a fictional novel as a piece of activism is not intended to mislead readers into believing what's on the page is not true and does not reflect Feinberg's life.

"It was hard for readers of 'Stone Butch Blues' to think of it as a novel, and I don't want readers to feel flim-flammed," Feinberg says. "But I wrote these novels to tell more truth — a novel gives me freedom to tell about oppression."

The author felt obligated to let the characters express themselves and find their own voices.

"Things came up I didn't expect," Feinberg says. "When writing fiction, I think about the characters and wait until they take shape in my head, when I can hear their voices. It's as though I'm transcribing their conversations."

But ultimately, Feinberg's life is much different than those described in "Stone Butch Blues" and "Drag King Dreams."

"I have a great life," the writer notes. "I still have to cobble together enough money every month to pay rent. But through these characters in my novels who are finding themselves and are making a difference, that's where readers find their hope — and where I find my hope, too."

Leslie Feinberg, a transgender activist and author who achieved fame with the 1993 novel 'Stone Butch Blues,' recently released 'Drag King Dreams,' a book about gender-queer friends in post-9/11 New York. (Photo by Marilyn Humpries)

FEINBERG FACTS

- **Age:** 57
- **Birthplace:** Buffalo, N.Y., where she grew up as a young butch lesbian in the factories and gay bars during the 1960s.
- **Other writings:**
"Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come," 1992, World View Forum
"Stone Butch Blues," 1993, San Francisco: Firebrand Books
"Transgender Warriors: Making History from Joan of Arc to Dennis Rodman," 1996, Boston: Beacon Press
"Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue," 1999, Beacon Press
- **Occupation:** National leader of Workers World Party, managing editor of Workers World newspaper, transgender activist and author
- **Relationship status:** Partner of lesbian poet, author and activist Minnie Bruce Pratt since 1993. Pratt refers to Feinberg as her "lesbian husband."

MORE INFO

'Drag King Dreams'
Leslie Feinberg
Carroll & Graf
www.transgenderwarrior.org

TOP OF THE POPS: DJs including **Chad Jack** rate the current music hits with gay listeners. **Page 31**

BOOK NOOK: New partners make big plans to revitalize Southeast's oldest lesbian-feminist bookstore. **Page 35**

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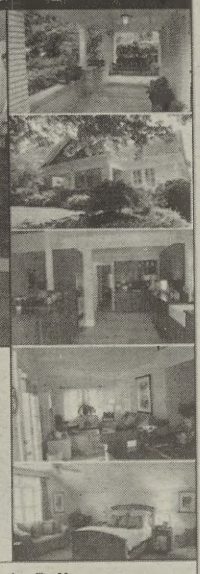

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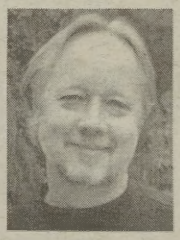
SUNDAY SEPT. 10

Cowboy Envy performs an early, all -ages show in Decatur. 5:30 p.m. at Eddie's Attic, 515-B McDonough St. 404-377-4976, www.eddiesattic.com

MONDAY SEPT. 11
Allen Thornell, who narrowly lost his District 58 state House race, thanks his supporters at an evening of karaoke at East Atlanta's gay bar. 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. at Mary's, 1287 Glenwood Ave. 404-624-4411, www.marysatlanta.com

TUESDAY SEPT. 12
Local gay poet **Franklin Abbott** hosts a poetry reading featuring C. Cleo Creech and authors from the 'Outside the Green Zone' chapbook collection, as well as musician Melanie Hammet. 8 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082, www. outwritebooks.com



WEDNESDAY SEPT. 13

Gay Atlanta native and guitarist **Kaki King** struts her stuff as musician and vocalist to promote her new nationally released album, 'Until We Felt Red.' 9 p.m. at the Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave. 404-524-7354, www.kakiking.com

The Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce presents **Will Herbig**, director of Urban Design for the Midtown Alliance, to discuss the past and future of the heavily gay borough. *6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Park Tavern, 500 10th St. www.atlantagaychamber.net*

ON THE WEB: For other calendars of special events, visit **www.sovo.com**.

THURSDAY SEPT. 14
Inspired by his part-time work at the San Francisco Zoo, gay author **Alex MacLennan** brings his first novel, 'The Zookeeper,' to town. 8 p.m. at Outwrite Bookstore & Coffeehouse, 991 Piedmont Ave. 404-607-0082, www.outwritebooks.com

Renee Dodd presents 'Cabinet of Wonders,' a novel set in 1927 about freak shows and an inside glimpse into the world of outsiders. 7:30 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.charisbooksandmore.com

Bubba D. Licious hosts **'Gospel Bingo,'** this month's offering to support Pets Are Loving Support. Doors at 6:30 p.m., first ball called at 7:45 p.m. at Magnolia Hall in Piedmont Park. www.palsatlanta.org

FRIDAY SEPT. 15
-SUNDAY SEPT. 17
Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning classic **'A Streetcar Named Desire'** is told in a new way as an opera in three acts. 8 p.m. at the Conant Performing Arts Center at Oglethorpe University, 4484 Peachtree Road. 404-454-6213, www.oglethorpe.edu

SATURDAY SEPT. 16
The drag debs count their cash and doll up for the culmination of their 2006 fundraising season for AID Atlanta, the **Atlanta Cotillion Debutante Ball**. Music by local gay DJs Kim Crawford and David Knapp. 7 p.m. at the Savannah College of Art and Design, 1600 Peachtree St. www.atlantacotillion.com

To add a listing, e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 20, or fax to 404-876-2709 attn: Bo Shell. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance.

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FRIES CAN BE VERY REVEALING.

Visiting The Grove Restaurant & Tavern for the first time, the sweet potato fries blow me away. They're served with a raspberry chipotle dipping sauce that is tangy and spicy, but the fries are so delicious on their own that there's no need for it.

The fries are dark with a micro-thin tender-crisp exterior and fluffy-silken interior. They're addictive: I was invited to sample one, but manage to devour half the pile before my hand is slapped away. I regret that I don't have my own.

My buffalo chicken salad ($7.49) features scant servings of grilled chicken breast and diced tomatoes atop generous helpings of iceberg and Romaine lettuce and shredded cheddar-jack cheese. The balance is off, and the ensemble appears to be quickly assembled using items readily found bagged at local grocery stores.

The chicken cheese steak sandwich ($6.99, including fries) blends chopped chicken, onions, bell peppers and melted cheese in a soft hoagie roll. The flavor is satisfying, but the bread-to-filling ratio leaves too little chicken in the mix. The sandwich is served wrapped in silver paper; its temperature and the bread's texture suggests that it was recently pulled from a microwave.

But another stealthy acquisition of a sweet potato fry tempers disappointment.

FOOD FILE

The GROVE

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Value: ★★★☆☆
Scene: ★★☆☆☆

Dine inside or out, but watch for spotty execution from any table at The Grove.

"These right here are worth the price of admission," I say shoving the thing into my mouth before it can be stolen back.

The fries are an interesting shape — perfect rectangles and wider than a julienne cut. "What is the name of this cut?" I ask a server refilling our water glasses. She agrees to ask the chef, but never returns.

So I ask again when she brings the check. After several minutes she returns with the official answer: "He doesn't know because they arrive already cut." Ah, so these frozen babies are merely cooked in back. That's okay, right? Not every restaurant is meant for foodies. Besides, whoever is manning the fry cooker appears to be an expert to the task.

TWO WEEKS LATER, I RETURN anticipating my own side order of sweet potato fries. They are nothing like the previous batch. They're brown and taste like it's way past time to change the oil. The thick, crunchy exterior overpowers what remains of the interior. I want to cry. I can't bear to eat them.

The classic burger ($6.99, including fries) is a half-pound of ground beef served with lettuce, tomato, onion and a choice of cheese. It's average and edible, but lacks a noteworthy quality.

The portabella sandwich ($6.79 plus side) pairs the grilled mushroom with roasted red pepper, lettuce, tomato and pepper-jack cheese. The flavors work together, but the slimy texture is disconcerting. The sandwich is served with raspberry vinaigrette, a pleasant condiment on its own, but here it adds a taste that seems totally out of place. Ketchup is better.

The potato salad side has an unexpected crunch; some of the pieces slathered in the mustard-based sauce are underdone.

ENDING ON A GOOD NOTE, THE KEY lime pie ($4.59) is delicious. Its smooth, tangy, sweet filling is a welcome contrast to the crunchy graham cracker crust. "This is tasty," I inform the server.

"It's brought in," she says, confirming what the French fries already revealed: The preparations, like the quality of the offerings on any given day, are touch and go.

Choose the right item on the right day at The Grove, and the results are perfectly satisfying. But there are no guarantees of consistency.

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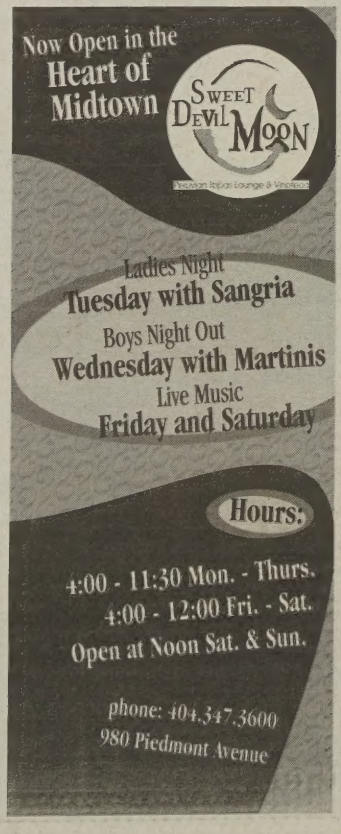

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film GREG MARZULLO

'Queens' of comedy

Mothers of grooms grind emotional axes in new Spanish film

Verónica Forqué (left) begins the seduction of her gay son-in-law (Gustavo Salmerón) in 'Queens.' (Photo courtesy Warner Brothers)

THE REPUTATION OF CRAZED mothers-in-law grows to Godzilla-like proportions in the days leading up to a wedding — gay or straight. Manuel Gómez Pereira's Spanish film "Queens," opening at Midtown Art Cinema on Sept. 8, proves just how difficult mothers can be, especially when they're letting go of their little boys.

Full of farcical plot twists and Restoration-era strokes of good fortune, "Queens" is sure to delight audiences despite an occasionally overly complicated and belabored storyline.

On the eve of the first legalized gay marriages in Spain, three gay male couples are wrestling with what every married couple faces: extended-family drama.

Hugo (Gustavo Salmerón) picks up his mother-in-law to-be, Nuria (Verónica Forqué) from the train station, because his politico fiancé Narciso (Paco León) is supposedly stuck in Brussels doing government work.

Miguel (Unax Ugalde) and Óscar (Daniel Hendler) break down into histrionic arguments as Óscar's mother Ofelia (Betiana Blum) blows into town with both her incontinent dog and overbearing demeanor in tow.

Jonas (Hugo Silva) is set to marry Rafa (Raúl Jiménez), son of the famous actress Reyes (played by real famous actress Marisa Paredes of Pedro Almodóvar's "All About My Mother"), but first he has to work out some issues with his father, Jacinto (Lluís Homar).

Throw into the mix a gay hotel owned by the mother of one of the grooms, an affair between the actress and Jonas' father and various other fast-moving twists of sex and betrayal, and you have a funny but confusing film that falls short of its full potential.

PEREIRA, WHO CO-WROTE THE SCRIPT with Yolanda García Serrano, keeps the plot tight for most of the film. Running multiple stories on a parallel track is not easy, and until the last third of the movie, it glides along smoothly, allowing the viewer to sink into the follies of the characters.

The actresses playing the mothers deliver strong performances, but Paredes and Forqué stand out from the crowd. Paredes' screen presence is formidable, demanding attention even when the scene isn't necessarily focused on her. She shifts emotional gears seamlessly, moving from anger to smoldering sensuality with flawless precision.

Forqué's Nuria is a sex-addicted woman who can't help but work on any man available, including her future son-in-law. Her character could easily become the post-menopausal comic slut, but Forqué rides the subtext, letting the audience hate her for the inexcusable lines she crosses and pity her for the self-inflicted, destructive complications wrecking her life.

The men in the film take a back seat to the mothers, leaving mostly hollow characters to play foils to the matriarchal journeys. None of the gay characters get enough extended screen time for the audience to actually care about them.

Jonas' father, Jacinto, who also happens to be Reyes' long-time gardener, is the refreshing exception among the two-dimensional male characters. He explores his vulnerability during his scenes with Reyes, learning about love and the errors he made as a machismo-cursed father.

Unfortunately, in the final reel, the complications are tied up hastily, and an otherwise precise storyline disintegrates.

THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF THE MOVIE itself. The plot dangles on a thin edge throughout and usually finds the precarious balance between farce and cheap laughs. But "Queens" ends in a flurry of wrap-ups that are vaguely dissatisfying.

All newlyweds hope for happily-ever-after, but there are no guarantees in love or war, especially when age-old family battles get new recruits in the form of in-laws.

With such a careful ascent, the crash ending feels like a rush-job.

MORE INFO

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www.landmarktheatres.com

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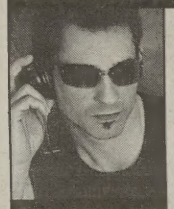
top 10s

Each week, Southern Voice compiles Top 10s from a different entertainment category of interest to gay and lesbian readers. This week, we feature DJs popular in gay clubs and dance parties, along with two countdowns of music popular with gay listeners: Gaydarradio.com's Listener's Choice Top 10 List and Sirius OutQ Hot 20 Top Ten.

If you would like to suggest a DJ to include on our list, please send your suggestion to forum@sovo.com.

Next week: Books

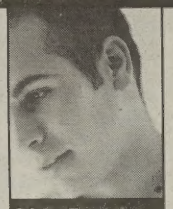
DJ dance music Top 10s



DJ Randy Bettis

1. **Ain't No Other Man** Christina Aguilera (Shape UK Classics Mix)
2. **Shine** Luther Vandross (Freemasons Club Mix)
3. **Let Me Hear the Music** L.E.X. feat. Niki Harris (L.E.X. Big Room Club Mix)
4. **So Deep** Walker (Chris Cox Club Mix)
5. **Tell Me Right** (Shout!) Liquid 360 (Liquid 360 Arabian Nights Mix & Lenny B. Filtered Factory Classic Mix)
6. **It's a Dream** In Between/ Win Marcinak (Hothead Tribal Mix)
7. **Always** Jade (Peter Lorimer Extended Vocal Mix)
8. **Rainy Days & Monday** BetBoyz feat. Natalie Toro (Randy B's Stormy Radio Mix)
9. **One Night Only** Deena Jones & The Dreams (Richie Jones Club Mix)
10. **Borderline** Jody Wately (Funky Junction + Marco Zappala Tribal Mix)

www.djrandybettis.com



DJ Joe Bermudez

1. **Discoteka** Starkillers (Kobbe & Austin Leeds Mix)
2. **I Wish You Would** Martijn Ten Velden
3. **Big Love** Pete Heller (Steven Lee & Stren Cantrelle Mix)

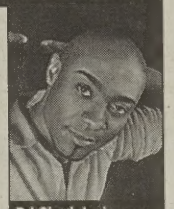
4. **Spirit in My Life** ^ Cedric Gervais
5. **Possessed** Kobbe & Austin Leeds (Macz Remix)
6. **Chelsea** Stefy (Morgan Page Remix)
7. **Crazy** Gnarls Barkley (Karl G. Remix)
8. **Sensitivity** Shapeshifters (Martijn Ten Velden Mix)
9. **Dreams Come True** Alison Savid (Jupiter Ace Remix)
10. **Flow** Vinny Troia (Terranova's Starkillers Mix)

www.joebermudez.com

DJ Tracy Young

1. **Call it Love** ^ Lionel Ritchie (Tracy's Lovin' It Mix)
2. **Feel the Love** Hedda Layne (Tracy Feels It Mix)
3. **World Hold On** Bob Sinclair
4. **Underground Baby** Adam Freemer
5. **Make it Go** FC Nond
6. **One Hundred Percent** Kult of Makeria
7. **Feel You** Ritchie Santana
8. **Black Rain** DJ Chus
9. **I Feel For You** John Kano Project
10. **Same Man** Till West & DJ Delicious

www.djtracyyoung.com



DJ Chad Jack

1. **Control 2006** Janet Jackson (CJ 20 Y.O. Club Mix)
2. **Life Right Now** Silya (Chad Jack Club Mix)
3. **Put Your Hands Up for Detroit** Feede Le Grande
4. **Right Here, Right Now** Mixin Marc (Dub)
5. **Rhythm Rock You** Vinyl Life
6. **Electro Fun** Abel Ramos (E-Craig Remix)
7. **Same Man** Till West (Original Mix)

8. **Be Without Your** ^ Mary J. Blige (Chad Jack Mixes)
9. **Love Sensation** Kurd Maverick (Dub)
10. **Say U Will** Cashmere Feat. Dajae

www.chadjack.com

Gaydarradio.com's Listener's Choice Top 10

1. **Anthem** N Joi
2. **DeJa Vu** Beyonce
3. **World Hold On** Bob Sinclair
4. **Slow** Kylie
5. **Friday Night** Sex Machine
6. **Come on Over** John Silver
7. **Lies to Yourself** Dr. Kucho
8. **Together Again** Janet Jackson >
9. **Sun Raising** Deux
10. **Fade** Solu Music

gaydarradio.com

SIRIUS OUTQ Hot 20 Top Ten

1. **You & I** Darren
2. **To Call My Own** Barton
3. **Author** Shimmerplanet
4. **Some Fine Day** Ember Swift
5. **La Le La La** Kinnie Starr (feat. Tegan Quin) Out from Under
6. **Trying to Get to You** Jason & deMarco
7. **U Go the Look** Dirty Sanchez
8. **Strange** Catie Curtis
9. **Minimal** Pet Shop Boys
10. **Marlboro Man** v Robert German

CHANNEL 106 sirius OUTQ www.siriusoutq.com

cover story

Atlanta bloggers as varied as the Web itself

GAY BLOGGERS, continued from Page 1

blog "boysbriefs."

When bloggers band together, the might behind their keystrokes can be fierce, like when a group of black gay and lesbian bloggers mobilized to cancel an HIV/AIDS concert in New York that featured an anti-gay reggae artist.

But blogging can also unleash the power of one.

"At its core, blogging is a way for people to have a voice, and to have a way to broadcast their voice to the world for the first time, easier and cheaper than ever," says j. brotherlove, an Atlanta blogger who operates thebrotherlove.com.

Celebrating the subversive

CHRIS VISE SPENT THE FIRST 15 YEARS of his adulthood slaving away long nights and weekends in the broadcast industry, including a stretch when he went three months without an off day.

It was while he crunched atmospheric data as a meteorologist for the Weather Channel that Vise began yearning for a more stimulating way to express himself.

"You can try to be creative in how you deliver your forecast on the air, but you can only be so creative with 'Partly cloudy, high in the 80s …'" Vise jokes.

Vise's workaholic tendencies were tempered when he lost his mother a few years ago, and he decided to make enjoying life his top priority.

"When she died, it made me realize life is really short, and we need to get out there and have a good time," Vise says. "I love to write about going out and having a good time, because I think the world is so serious these days, and it seems the entire country has gotten so conservative."

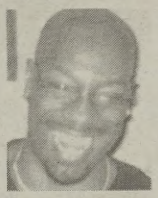
Since 2003, Vise has used "My Daily Education" to chronicle his barhopping across Atlanta.

"We've become so assimilated into mainstream society, but we should celebrate who we are and the subversive side of ourselves that we don't see everyday."

www.dailyeducation.wordpress.com

Spreading the brotherlove

BLOGGING SINCE 1998, J. BROTHERLOVE knows to be careful what he writes on the internet.



"Anyone who writes a personal blog long enough ends up writing something they don't want published," he says, speaking from experience. "Anything you write that concerns other people, at some point those people will read it."

j. brotherlove now chuckles about past mishaps resulting from his postings on "thebrotherlove.com." Those lessons keep topics like his relationships and workplace off limits, he says.

"I don't feel like I can just write about anything — there are certainly things that really are private," he says. "It's a safer way for me to blog and not have it disrupt my life offline.

"But authenticity, to me, is important," he continues. "And I like being able to connect with people who read my work, and I like for them to get a true idea of who I am."

One of the more memorable posts for j. brotherlove that spiraled out of control had nothing to do with his personal life. His criticism of a Joe Boxer commercial that featured a black actor jumping around and dancing circulated among other black bloggers and eventually to mainstream websites like Salon. The incident temporarily turned his own blog into an unofficial host site for heated conversation about the commercial.

It's rewarding to form friendships and alliances with people all over the world via blogging, but j. brotherlove is somewhat disappointed that Atlanta's blogging scene is a sprawling and segregated as the city itself, he says.

"It's unfortunate, because blogging creates an opportunity for us to learn from each other," he says.

www.thebrotherlove.com

Mommy power

SCROLL DOWN LIZA BARRY-KESSLER'S blog to see plenty of pictures of her infant son, or as she dubs him in one post, her "Weapon of Mass Cuteness."

"I'm one of those moms," Barry-Kessler gushes.

Barry-Kessler launched her blog, "Liza Was Here," shortly after moving to Atlanta in 2005. She originally created it as a way to stay in touch with people she left behind in Washington, D.C.

She says the blog quickly evolved into a running narrative about her quest to become a lesbian mother.

Compounding the anxiety any parent-to-be feels, Barry-Kessler and her partner were forced to move from DeKalb to Fulton County in order to increase the likelihood of the same-sex couple adopting a child.

"It was really wonderful to be able to vent about that, and have people supporting us, and letting us know that they thought it sucked too," Barry-Kessler says.

Already the co-author of a book on the privacy issues libraries face in the 21st century, Barry-Kessler says she was at first weary about producing content for a broad audience.

"I wasn't really sure what to expect, and I had a lot of concerns about things like privacy, and whether I wanted, say, people in my workplace knowing I did it," says Kessler, who didn't promote her blog for the first three months it was up.

"I wanted to make sure I was going to stick with it," she says.

Today, Barry-Kessler is so sure-footed in the blogosphere that she branched into a second blog, LesbianFamily.org. She was inspired to create the lesbian parenting resource after noticing that lesbian mothers were overlooked by large mommy-blogging sites like ClubMom.com.

"I wanted to make it easier for lesbian families to come together with other lesbian families and have a place to discuss the similar issues they are experiencing," Barry-Kessler said.

www.lizawashere.com

www.lesbianfamily.org

Bookmarking memories

THE INTERNET IS LIKE A SHOEBOX, reinvented, to Chris Brandon — a place to preserve nostalgic keepsakes that remind him of the moments that define his life.

"I used to be very, very active in the whole circuit party scene, and I would write down the details of everything that happened during a weekend because I didn't want to forget them," says Brandon, who keeps five or six years worth of punched party tickets and other circuit memorabilia in a cardboard box.

The box is now sealed, and Brandon turned to his blog, "boysbriefs," to capture the story of his transition from the circuit scene to a farmhouse in Phoenix's historic district.

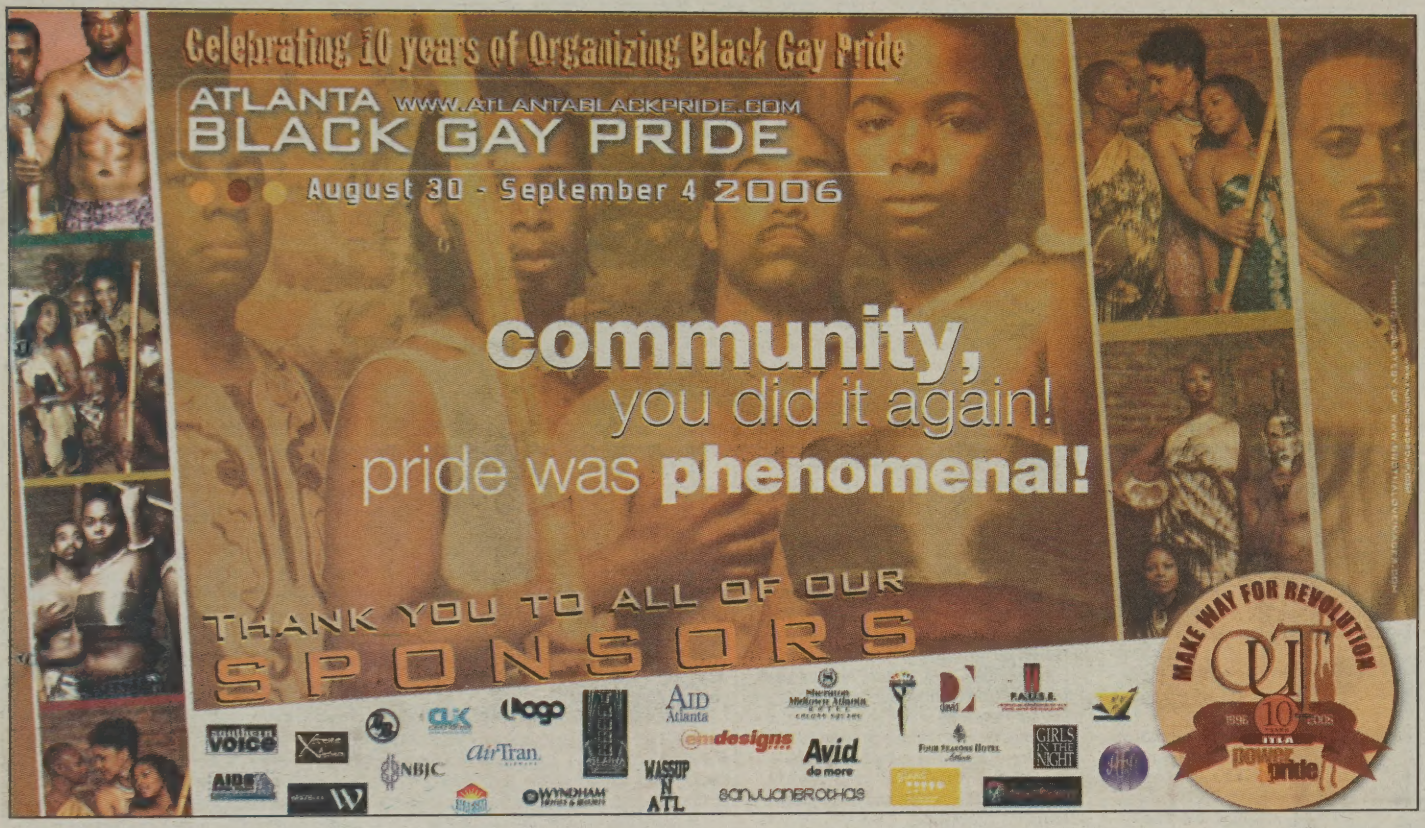
"My blog has definitely evolved from a place to post old circuit party stories to more of a day-to-day personal journal," says Brandon, who moved from Atlanta in June.

"I've kind of grown up and had a transition in life from focusing on the superficial partying in my 20s, to now being in my 30s and thinking about the future, and making plans, and trying to cultivate stronger relationships," he says.

"When I was going through that transition, it really actually helped me to write all of that down," Brandon adds.

A journalist and aspiring novelist, Brandon says his favorite posts are carefully crafted narratives that he hopes can serve as the foundation for his book. He also hopes blog will help him keep in touch with his friends in Atlanta.

www.boysbriefs.blogspot.com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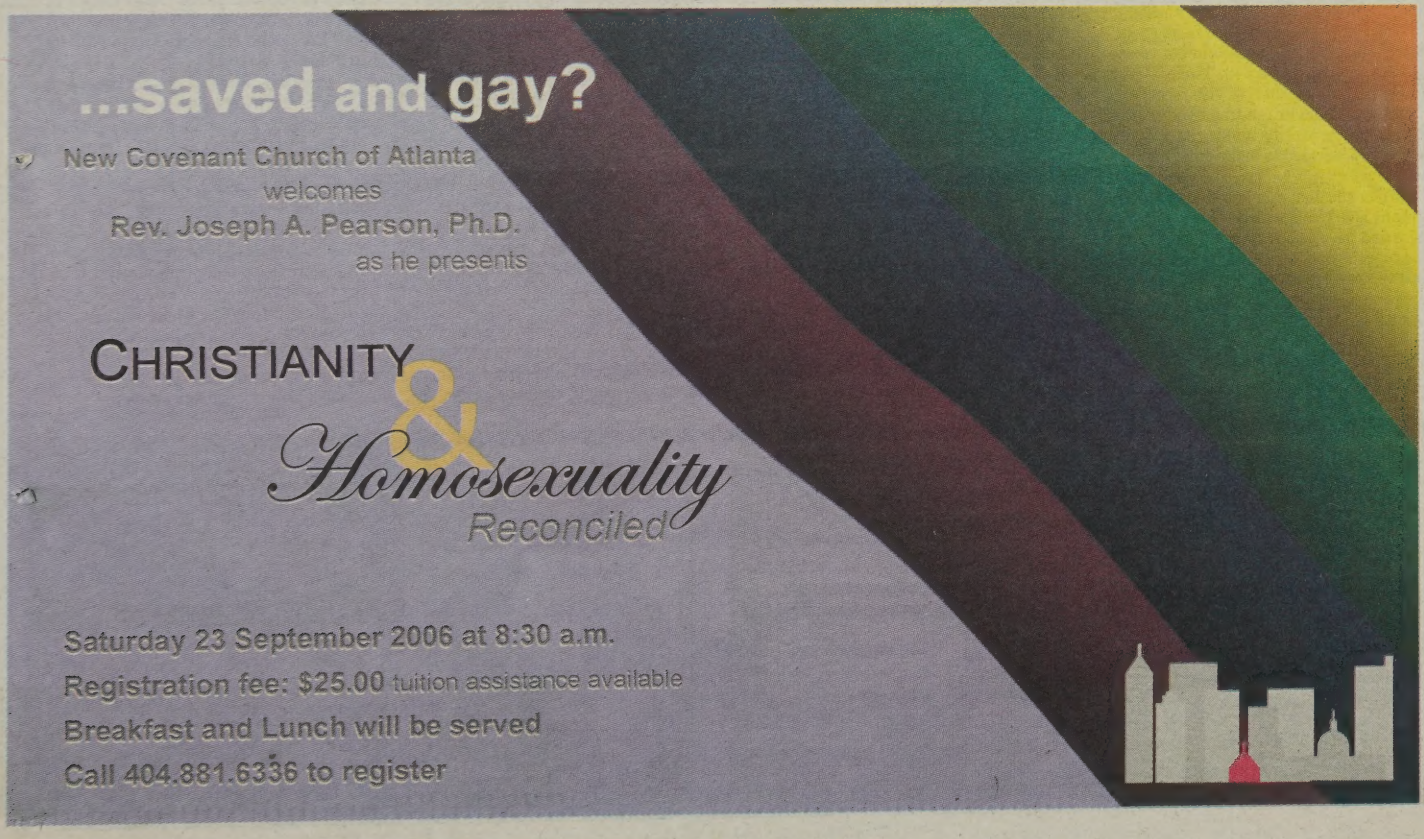
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Sep. 24	9:30a.m.	Second Day of Rosh Hashanah
Oct. 01	8:00p.m.	Kol Nidre
Oct. 02	9:30a.m.	Yom Kippur

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Change of seasons

Trio of lesbians mix experience, new blood to breathe life into decades-old feminist bookstore

By BO SHELL

AS WE PREPARE FOR LEAVES TO shift from green to auburn, a well-crafted transformation is also happening in Atlanta's lesbian-feminist bookstore, with its new leaders poised to grow from the roots planted by a previous generation.

Meet the new ownership of Charis Books & More: Sara Look, Amanda Hill and Angela Gabriel. All three women are lesbians, and each brings her own skills to the table in turning around the venerable bookstore.

Look's name is not new to the Charis roster. After working as an intern in 1991, and becoming a full-time employee in 1994, she was named co-owner by founder Linda Bryant in 1998.

Look and Bryant continued the Charis tradition of selling feminist-oriented books and ephemera, including lesbian-specific titles, through December 2005, when business nearly came to a halt after 31 years.

Facing financial crises and possible closure, Bryant announced in a widely disseminated email that Charis' sales numbers would have to increase in order to keep the store open.

Customers answered by making the holiday season one of the brightest in recent history, but the turn didn't stop Bryant from announcing that she would step aside to make "room for a new infusion of cash, energy, ideas and vision."

She announced by email in February 2006 that her half of the store's shares were available to investors.

"It was a mutual decision," Look says. "It wasn't like she decided on her own. We had long discussion about it. I was very excited and anxious, as it's a huge change for Charis and for me because Linda is like family."

MORE INFO

Meet and greet Charis owners
Sept. 9, noon to 8 p.m.
Charis Books & More
1189 Euclid Ave.
404-542-0304
www.charisbooksandmore.com

Angela Gabriel

Age: 36
Residence: Decatur
Birthplace: Chicago, Ill.
Education: University of West Georgia graduate with BS in early childhood and Masters in counseling in education
Occupation: Charis co-owner part time, public school pre-k teacher
Relationship status: Single ("And looking!")

Amanda Hill

Age: 39
Residence: East Point
Birthplace: Barstow, Calif.
Education: Georgia Tech graduate with degree in electrical engineering
Occupation: Full-time Charis co-owner responsible for finance, marketing and renovations
Relationship status: Partnered for nine years

Sara Look

Age: 36
Residence: Pine Lake
Birthplace: Martha's Vineyard Island, Mass.
Education: Emory University graduate with degrees in Women's Studies and English
Occupation: Full-time Charis co-owner, book buyer
Relationship status: Partnered for 11 years, has five-year-old daughter

New blood

THE SURVIVING CORNERSTONE OF the original Charis from 1974, Bryant stays on part time, working one day a week at the store she called home for more than 30 years.

"I believe there is someone out there who has been longing to be more intimately connected to Charis," Bryant said in her Feb. 2 email announcing her departure, "someone who loves books and community, someone who will get this email and know it is intended for her."

One of those people turns out to be Gabriel, a Charis employee for six years who purchased part of Bryant's shares for an amount she declined to specify.

"I came in about 10 or 12 years ago, and I was in awe," Gabriel says. "I just remember thinking this was the place I fit in. There are books on the shelves about me. I see myself everywhere. I didn't have to go to self-help to get a book that relates to me."

Joining Gabriel in response to Bryant's plea for investors is Hill, whose path to Charis began with an introduction to the business as a contractor for store renovations.

Hill brings experience running her own business, including bookkeeping, sales and marketing. Her mission now is working through the finances of the store.

During December's crisis, Look said sales were down 10 percent compared to the same time in 2004, and 35 percent in the past five years.

Look says Charis's total sales haven't skyrocketed since December, but even though numbers are still down, they're better than this time last year.

"What we really needed was new energy and some cash to make some changes here so we could really take Charis to the next level," says Look, who would not provide current sales percentages. "We don't want to be victims or survivors, we want to be the strong beautiful beloved Charis that so many flock to."

From left to right, **Amanda Hill**, **Angela Gabriel** and **Sara Look**, all lesbians, comprise the new ownership team at Charis Books & More, Atlanta's feminist bookstore. (Photos by Bo Shell)

New look

THERE'S A FEELING OF FRESHNESS at Charis, post-changeover. The mood, though always friendly, is lighter. The voices joking from around the store are louder and the air smells of fresh paint — all signs of promising things to come.

By buying into Charis, Hill and Gabriel gave the Euclid Avenue locale a chance to better itself, starting first with physical appearance.

First on the list was color: bright lavender paint on the exterior and lime green on the inside. Next in line are a slew of improvements that could allow Charis shoppers a more complete bookstore experience, including a deck, more seating and eventually a coffee bar.

But the changes will take time and, of course, money. Hill says they'll tap investor resources if needed, but she wants Charis to stay independent.

The owners hope that increasing sales numbers by reaching out to a more diverse audience ensures that Charis is a feminist bookstore with a broad definition of feminism — one that simply calls for the end of discrimination across the board.

"People put us in whatever category that works for them, and I think we're going to be reaching to everyone, hopefully fitting their niche, figuring out where to put us," Hill says. "I want people to find themselves here. Everybody needs a little piece of Charis in them."

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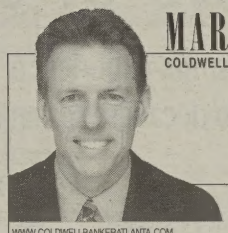

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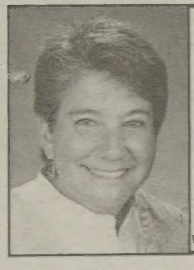

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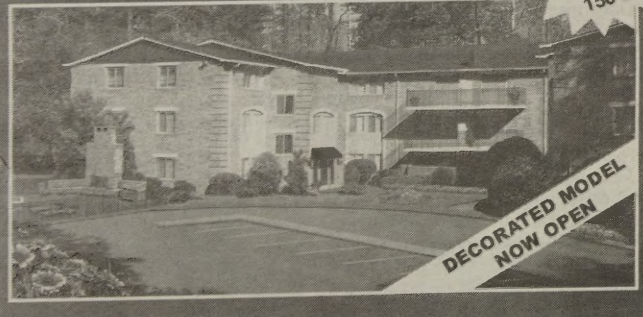

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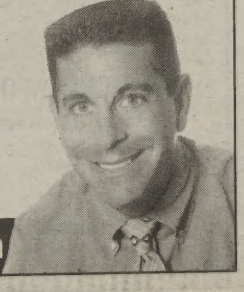

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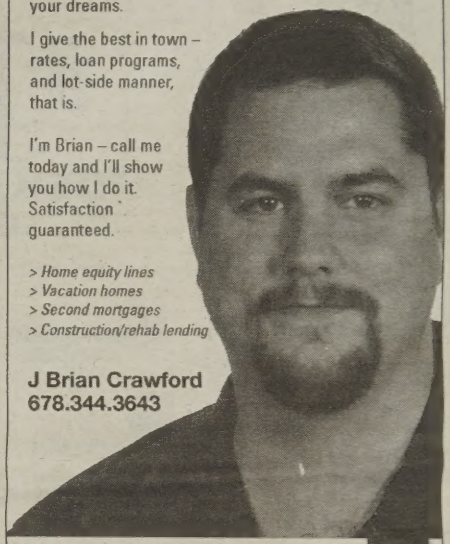

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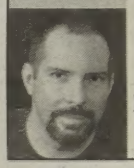

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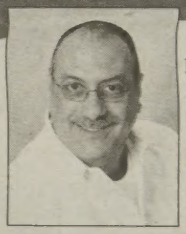

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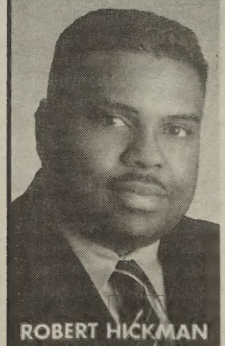

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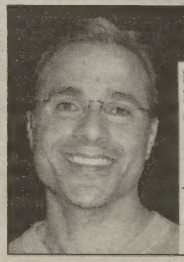

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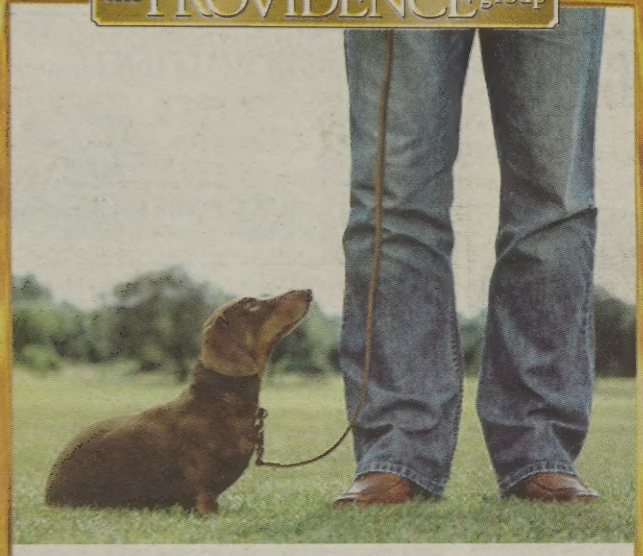

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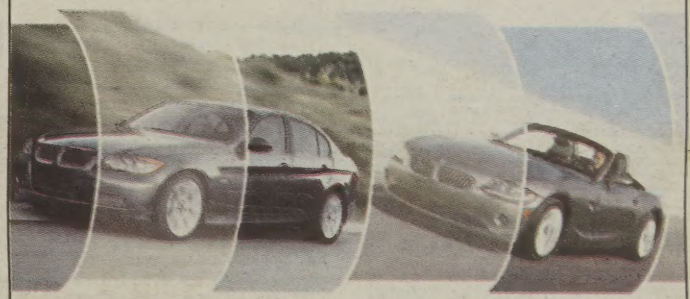

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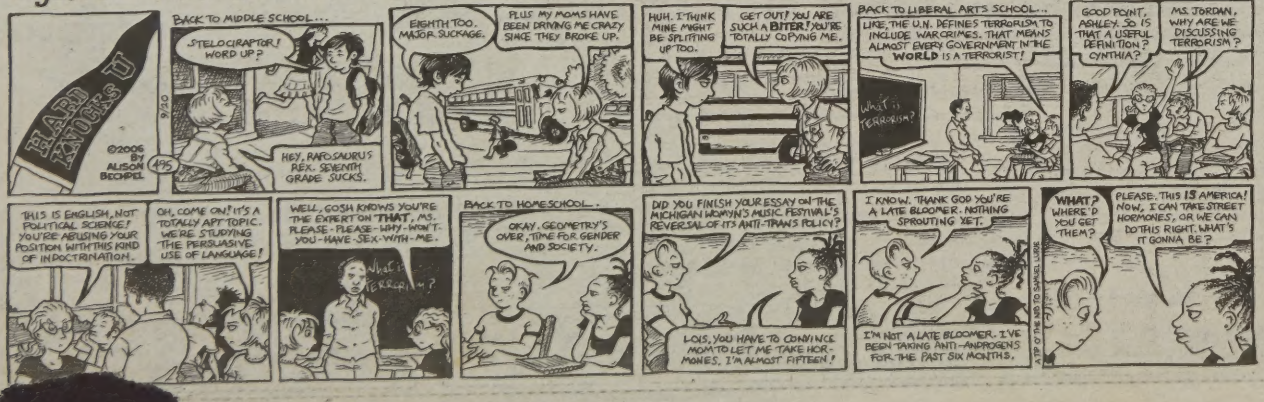
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9/30
BACK TO MIDDLE SCHOOL...
STELOCIRAPTOR! WORD UP?
HEY, RAPTOSAURUS REX. SEVENTH GRADE SUCKS.
EIGHTH TOO. MAJOR SUCKAGE.
PLUS MY MOMS HAVE BEEN DRIVING ME CRAZY SINCE THEY BROKE UP.
HUH. I THINK MINE MIGHT BE SPLITTING UP TOO.
GET OUT! YOU ARE SUCH A BITER! YOU'RE TOTALLY COPYING ME.
BACK TO LIBERAL ARTS SCHOOL...
LIKE, THE U.N. DEFINES TERRORISM TO INCLUDE WAR CRIMES. THAT MEANS ALMOST EVERY GOVERNMENT IN THE WORLD IS A TERRORIST!
WHAT IS TERRORISM?
GOOD POINT, ASHLEY. SO IS THAT A USEFUL DEFINITION? CYNTHIA?
MS. JORDAN, WHY ARE WE DISCUSSING TERRORISM?
THIS IS ENGLISH, NOT POLITICAL SCIENCE! YOU'RE ABUSING YOUR POSITION WITH THIS KIND OF INDOCTRINATION.
OH, COME ON! IT'S A TOTALLY APT TOPIC. WE'RE STUDYING THE PERSUASIVE USE OF LANGUAGE!
WELL, GOSH KNOWS YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON THAT, MS. PLEASE-PLEASE-WHY-WON'T-YOU-HAVE-SEX-WITH-ME.
WHAT IS TERRORISM?
BACK TO HOMESCHOOL...
OKAY. GEOMETRY'S OVER, TIME FOR GENDER AND SOCIETY.
DID YOU FINISH YOUR ESSAY ON THE MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL'S REVERSAL OF ITS ANTI-TRANS POLICY?
LOIS, YOU HAVE TO CONVINCE MOM TO LET ME TAKE HORMONES. I'M ALMOST FIFTEEN!
I KNOW. THANK GOD YOU'RE A LATE BLOOMER. NOTHING SPROUTING YET.
I'M NOT A LATE BLOOMER. I'VE BEEN TAKING ANTI-ANDROGENS FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS.
WHAT? WHERE'D YOU GET THEM?
PLEASE. THIS IS AMERICA! NOW, I CAN TAKE STREET HORMONES, OR WE CAN DO THIS RIGHT. WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
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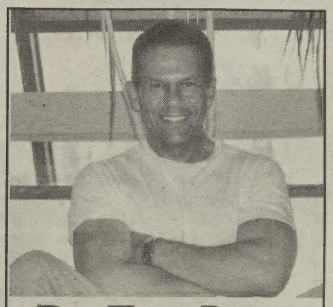

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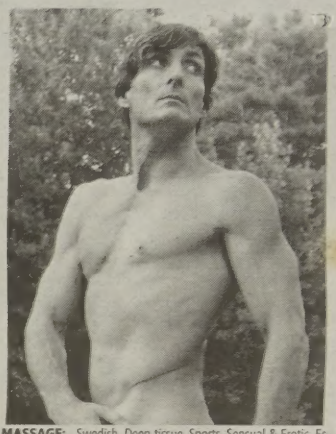

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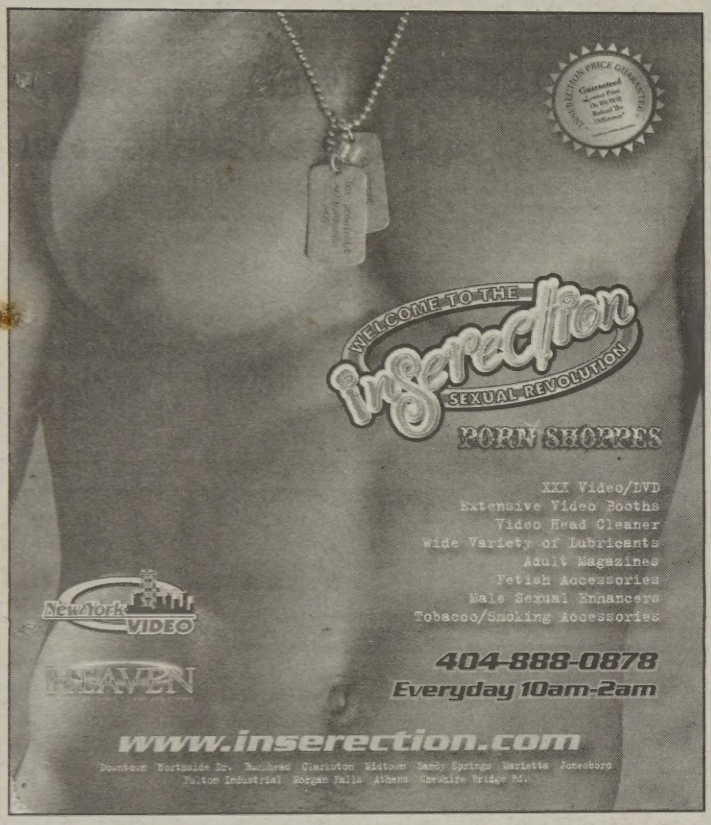
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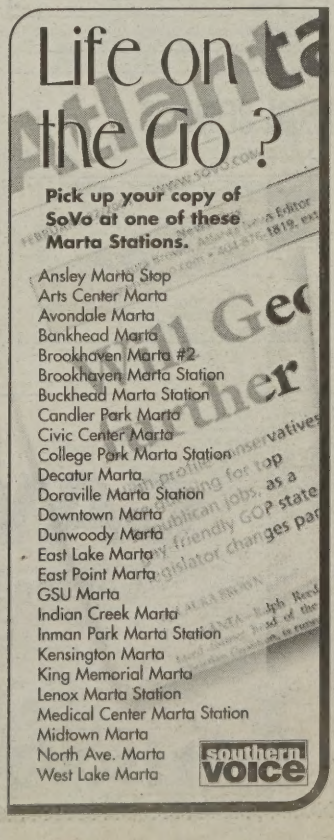
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Men Seeking Men

HEY THERE
SWM, 27, red/hazel, 6'1", 168lbs, smoker, enjoys yard work. Seeking a WM, 27-48, smoker, to connect with and have some fun. Atlanta ☎937279

GET IN TOUCH
SBM, 29, 165lbs, attractive, swimmers build. Seeking a SB/WF, 18-30, for friendship, fun and maybe more. Greenbrier ☎945059

PROFESSIONAL MAN
WM, 56, responsible (can be wild at times), enjoys movies, travel, history, and good conversation. Seeking WM, 40-60. Roswell ☎817643 @ **peachboy**

LIKE BEING SHOWERED...
with attention? SBM, 40. N/S, total bottom, a little femme, very healthy HIV+, enjoys 70s rock. Seeking man, 43-60, silver hair and glass a+, top, race open, for LTR. Atlanta ☎694072

DOWN-TO-EARTH KIND OF GUY
SWM, 25, employed, enjoys beach, mountains, etc. Looking to meet SWM, 18-33, who is independent, honest and enjoys similar interest. Augusta ☎876663

KEEP IT REAL
SBM, 36, a "Student of life, and I guess a product of my experiences. Seeking SWM, SHM, 27-35, to be who they are, not who people want them to be. Atlanta ☎947457 @ **Morethanalover**

IS THIS YOU?
Male, 26, 178lbs, 6' 2", open-minded, slim build, likes hiking, swimming, movies, seeks open-minded man, 18-35, with similar interests, for possible LTR. Asheville ☎990890

A GREAT CATCH
Understanding SBM, 27, 5' 11", 180lbs, athletic build, top, but willing to try bottom. Seeks open-minded, sensual man, 21-45, for friendship, possible romance. Asheville ☎987115

SEEKING THE REAL THING
Compassionate, thoughtful GM, 25, relocating from NYC to Atlanta, enjoys politics, economics. Seeking like-minded guy, 18-40, for fun times. Manhattanville ☎940714 @ **examinedlife**

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH
GWM, 43, smooth, athletic build, 5'8", brown/blue, enjoys beaches, cars, music and movies, monogamous LTR, moderate drinker, smoker, N/Drugs. Highway 5 ☎936252

BE MY TOP
Submissive, african-american bottom, 5'5", 145lbs, attractive, fit, health-conscious. Attracted to dominant, aggressive top guys. Age, race open. Let's talk. Atlanta ☎964136

ARE YOU OUT THERE
SBM, 26, wouldnt mind finding a guy who likes movies, talking on the phone, dinners, romantic nights in, music, sports. Seeking SM, 18-45, For friendship maybe more Belvedere ☎937728 @ **creblv104**

IS THIS YOU?
SBM, 26. Enjoys cooking. Seeks intelligent, sweet, BM, 21-40, must like fun, movies, malls. Willing to help at times. Macon ☎967163

WHY NOT CALL?
SBM, 46, 5' 6", enjoys sporting events, reading, seeks stable, down to earth man, 35-55, for friendship, possible romance. Johns Island ☎986995

SEEKING LTR
GWM, 51, seeking LTR with like minded GM, who knows the meaning of a relationship and willing to work through the inevitable rough spots. Enjoys baseball, bowling, reading, movies, theater. Rome ☎927593 @ **Stuff1122**

GOOD CATCH
GWM, 52, 5'10", 165lbs, brown/shaved, Fu Manchu moustache, HIV+ but healthy, sincere, affectionate, masculine, loves the outdoors, landscaping, gardening. Hoping to meet a man, 38-53, with similar interests and qualities. Atlanta ☎374135

SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN
Educated, good-looking, masculine GBM, 54, 6', 170lbs, salt-n-pepper wavy hair, HIV+, affectionate, healthy, N/S, loves music, travel, and hiking. Seeking man, 48-59, N/S, for dating, LTR. Atlanta ☎930446

QUALITY GUY SEEKING...
I am an energetic, extroverted guy who loves wit, candor and fine things in life. I also enjoy outdoors, biking, hiking, music, conversation, books, travel, films, theater and more. Milledgeville ☎925399 @ **DanGayMan**

CONSERVATIVE MALE
Outgoing SBM, 23, 5' 11", 180lbs, athletic build. Enjoys sports, outdoors, movies, plays, reading, seeks SWM, 19-60, for LTR. Loganville ☎959001

SERIOUS MEN ONLY
21, gay WM, works out, seeks laid-back, down to earth WM, 18-38, for fun, and LTR. Marietta ☎952378

SHARE THE LOVE
SWM, 45, Fun- loving, romantic, sexy and down-to-earth. Seeking SM, for fun, friendship and more Atlanta ☎935771 @ **dabarron6**

DOMINANT TOP
SWM, 45, 6', blond/blue, 175lbs, muscular build, HIV+. Looking for a SWM, 39-53, who is HIV+, stable, interested in a relationship/boyfriend and comfortable being a bottom. Atlanta ☎941123

UNIQUE NON-SCENE
Gentle GWM, Libra, 50s, 5'10", brown/brown, moustache, regular build, 180lbs, straight-acting/appearing, home/relationship oriented ISO somewhat similar stable GM, 40+. Honest, integrity, spirituality are what matter. Take a chance. Tucker ☎943612

SO MUCH TO OFFER
Nice, honest, sincere SWM, 43, 5' 10", 168lbs, clean shaven, clean cut. Enjoys hanging out, coffeehouses, long walks. Seeks WM, 28-48, N/S. Atlanta ☎965356

Women Seeking Women

NO LET DOWNS
SBF, 25, 5' 5", average build, caramel complexion, full-figured, attractive, seeks BF, 26-38, for friendship, possible romance. Atlanta ☎110230

ANYBODY FOR ME?
SBF, 35, enjoys going out, having fun, seeks understanding woman, 25-35, for friendship, possible LTR. Atlanta ☎987307

COME PLAY WITH ME
SWF, 30, Extremely attractive creature, beautiful and intelligent. Seeking SF, 25-60, a very fun older, attractive femme. Decatur ☎929492 @ **WellWicked**

MOVING TOWARD PARADISE
SBF 5'5", 170lbs, energetic, athletic, outgoing, love to have fun, loving, understanding, and kind. Seeking SBF 30+, who's outgoing, likes to have fun. Looking for friendship, feel free to inquire. Warner Robins ☎991730

ISO REAL LOVE
SBF, 44, 5'6", 170lbs, healthy, Capricorn, N/S, enjoys movies, travel, seeks woman, 30-55, N/S, feminine, outgoing, compatible, possible romance. Centerville Gwinnett ☎981382

NO PLAYERS WANTED
SWF, 43, adventurous, spontaneous, loves the outdoors and participates in long distance trail endurance races. Seeking SM, 38-48, that appreciates life, to be my friend and partner. Smyrna ☎953794 @ **inthepresent**

HOPE IT'S YOU
Full-figured SBF, 38, 5'10", enjoys beaches, going out, seeks independent woman, 36-55, for friendship, possible romance. Atlanta ☎987241

TOYS" R" US KID
Femme, funny affectionate female, 35, loves mini golf, flowers, fun, womens football, snuggling, more. ISO cute stud with great sense of humor, to enjoys a little romance, lasting friendship. Buford ☎975504

LOOKING FOR BEAUTY FEMME
SBPF, 26, attractive, easygoing, down-to-earth, seeking SBF, 18-40, for stimulating conversation, hanging out, general fun. Atlanta ☎975436 @ **southernbeauty80**

WORTH YOUR CALL
GWF, 45, very feminine, 5'2", 140lbs, high-lighted wavy brown/hazel, olive complexion, pretty smile, friendly, outgoing, affectionate, sincere, likes fitness, travel, picnics, clubs. Seeking compatible feminine lady slim-medium build. Friendship/dating. Tucker ☎976656

WHY WAIT?
Dominant BF, 29, student, 5'4", 135lbs, seeks a beautiful, feminine, confident, mature lady, goal-oriented, ambitious, sincere, to share the special times in life. Belvedere ☎982719

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READY FOR ADVENTURE
GWF, 35, N/S, high-achieving professional, seeks GF, 30-39, attractive, intelligent, emotionally mature, for friendship and maybe more. Stone Mountain ☎953485 @ **lovetoplay**

SPONTANEOUS ROMANTIC
Attractive SGWF, 37, 5'7", butch, seeks feminine, adventurous WF, 33-45, likes traveling, for fun, and exciting evenings. Atlanta ☎964323

SEEKING COMPANION
SBF, 35, 5'8", enjoys movies, reading, sports and more. Seeking a SB/WF, 25-45, who enjoys having fun. Birmingham ☎945706

LOVE NEVER FAILS
Feminine lady, 26, N/S, seeks feminine lady, 25-30, attractive, confident, with good head on shoulders. Birmingham ☎959339

LOVE NEVER FAILS
SBF, 44, N/S, seeks BF, 30-51, N/S, willing to step out of the ordinary to the impossible, who loves travel and walks in the park. Knoxville ☎920537

ENJOYS THE SIMPLE THINGS
GWF, 46, 5'9", brown eyes, loves to spend time outdoors, looking for a GWF, 40-50, non-smoker, non-drinker, no drugs, no drama, for possible LTR. Muscadine ☎865446

TIRED OF THE RAT RACE?
Mellow, low maintenance GWF, 55, attractive femme, Leo, N/S, loves harmony, looking for her butch in shining armor. Seeking WF, 35-65. Augusta ☎897913

ANY INTEREST?
SBF, 47, 5'1", medium build, very attractive. Seeking a single female, 25-55, race open, for friendship and fun times. Smyrna ☎939575

SEEKING FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
SBF, 58, quiet, fun-loving, loyal. Enjoys music, dancing, outdoors, and adventure. Seeks sincere, honest, affectionate stud, 48-62, for friendship, companionship. Ready to give and receive love. Atlanta ☎956410

AGRESSIVE? YES
Controlling? Never. Kind? Yes. Crass? Never. GBF, 48, 5'8", average build, single mother, N/S, loves art. Seeking spontaneous, self-confident woman, 35-55, under 5'8", N/S, with sense of humor. Atlanta ☎927361

TRY YOUR LUCK!
SBF, 43, 5'4", I enjoy walking, cycling, parks, movies, cooking, etc. Would like to meet a single female, 30-50, with similar interest. Columbus ☎940191

WHY NOT CALL
SBCF, 42, 5'3", H/W proportionate, enjoys writing, picnics, good talks, romance. Seeking sweet, honest Christina lady with God in her heart, to share life and all it's little pleasures. Atlanta ☎948671

GIVE ME A CALL
Femme, 44, single parent, looking for aggressive female, to spend quality time, and get to know, 37-48, ISO committed relationship. Washington ☎956299

HOPE TO FIND YOU
GBF, 45, seeks GF, 35-45, professional, spiritual, feminine and active to share friendship. No smokers, bi's drugs or alcohol please. Atlanta ☎935407

TALK TO ME
SBF, 58, Sagittarius, loves sports, music, life, seeks BF, 45-65, to share same interests with. Norcross ☎952380

WARM AND WONDERFUL
SBF, 48, enjoys reading, park walks, movies, plays, good times laughter. Looking to meet honest, affectionate sincere lady to share the special times. Decatur ☎975969

HI THERE
SF, 45, Aries, employed, likes sports, playing basketball, weightlifting, long walks, cycling, more. Seeking secure, fit, active, confident lady drama-free and down-to-earth, who knows what she wants in life/love. Athens ☎976075

COSMOPOLITAN SPIRIT
SBF, 58, knowledgeable, insightful, loyal, filled with passion, life, elegance and grace, enjoys classical music, jazz, theater, movies, visual art, architecture. Seeking compatible, open-minded lady to share/explore life with. East Lake Branch ☎765281

COME AWAY WITH ME!
Attractive GWF, 48, longs to whisk young, feminine, attractive, commitment-minded, non-smoking GWF away. Come share sunsets on the beach, autumn nights cuddling by the fire. @Tyden. Marietta ☎781031

LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS
SBF, 41, Virgo, N/S, music movie and tv hound, very laid-back seeks woman, 35-50, for friendship and dating. Atlanta ☎901318

GWF IN DALLAS, GA
SWF, 40ish, 5'3", 130lbs, blonde/green, feminine lesbian. Enjoy reading, pool, lite-drinking. ISO feminine, softbutch,34-50, N/S preferred. I'm honest, passionate, care-free, just out of LTR. Looking for someone to work-out/run with. Dallas ☎964381

Just Friends

SEEKING FRIENDS
SBM, 20, 5'11", brown skin, no golds, no tattoos, seeks BM, 18-25, for friendship, to hang out, and talk. Atlanta ☎960183

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Top Floor, Oversized Master, 1 car Assigned Garage, Fplc Gas Logs in Liv Room, Clubhouse, Slate Foyer & Bath, Den, Steps to Peidmont Park, Gated, Gym Facilities, Swimming Pool

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Midtown
Metropolis
923 Peachtree St
1BR/Den/1BA
$243,500

Direct Downtown View, Master on Main, 2 Car Garage, Granite/Stainless Kitchen, 24 Concierge, Double Vnty, Hardwood Floors, Walk-in Closets, Porch/Balc, Gated, Clubhouse, Gym Facilities

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